

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS,
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA.

LABOUR REPORT.

1955 AND 1956.

No. 44.

PREPARED UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE RIGHT HONORABLE
THE TREASURER

BY

S. R. CARVER,
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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PREFACE.

The first Labour Report issued by this Bureau was published in 1912. This Report is the forty-fourth of the series and deals chiefly with 1955 and 1956, in addition to providing comparisons for previous years. Some of the tabulations, however, include particulars relating to 1957.

The Report follows in the main the lines of its immediate predecessors in scope and arrangement. The subject-matter has been divided into five chapters, namely, Retail Prices and Price Indexes; Wholesale Prices and Price Indexes; Wages and Hours; Employment and Unemployment (including Industrial Disputes); and Labour Organizations. The index at the end of the volume will considerably facilitate reference.

In tabulating the results of investigations as to rates of wage, labour organizations, unemployment, industrial disputes, etc., the following grouping has been adopted in this Report:—

Groups of Industries and Occupations.

I.	Wood, Furniture, Sawmills, Timber Works, &c.	VIII.	Mining, Quarrying, &c.
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, &c.	IX.	Railway and Tramway Services.
III.	Food, Drink, and Tobacco—Manufacture and Distribution.	X.	Air and Other Land Transport.
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, &c.	XI.	Shipping, Wharf Labour, &c.
V.	Books, Printing, Bookbinding, &c.	XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, Horticultural, &c.
VI.	Other Manufacturing.	XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, &c.
VII.	Building.	XIV.	Miscellaneous.

Secretaries of trade unions and of employers' associations, officials of Commonwealth and State Departments, private employers, retail traders, house agents and others have readily supplied much information specially for the purposes of this Report, and my thanks are tendered to all who have thus assisted.

Grateful acknowledgment is also made of the continued assistance given by the Statistical Offices in the various States, especially in regard to the collection of retail prices.

I also desire to express my appreciation of the work done in the preparation of this Report by Mr. T. R. Jones, B.Com., the Supervisor of the Prices Branch, Mr. G. F. Cordy, B.Com., the Supervisor of the Employment and Labour Branch, and the staff under their control.

S. R. CARVER,
Commonwealth Statistician.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
Canberra, A.C.T., 21st January, 1958.

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CHAPTER I.—RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. Collection of Information as to Retail Prices.

Retail prices of food and groceries and average rentals of houses for years extending back to the year 1901 were collected by the Commonwealth Statistician, and in some cases have been recorded by the Statisticians of various States for earlier years.

Retail prices of a more extensive range of commodities (including clothing) and certain services in common demand have been ascertained at frequent and regular intervals since 1923 for each of the six capital cities and for 27 of the more important towns of Australia. Comparable information is available for the month of November in each year from 1914 to 1922 for each of the six capital cities.

The range of items for which retail price data is now obtained was considerably extended in 1948.

The retail prices of food and groceries in approximately 200 towns throughout Australia were collected as at November of each year from 1913 to 1942, when collection was discontinued.

The methods by which prices used in the retail price indexes are ascertained and the measures adopted to ensure their accuracy and comparability are briefly as follows:—

- (i) Representative and reputable retailers are selected for each city and town covered by the indexes and each is required to furnish information as to prices monthly in respect of food and groceries and quarterly in respect of other items. Prices for each item are obtained where practicable from ten or more retailers in each of the capital cities, and from five or more retailers in each of the provincial towns. To cover all commodities in the indexes, collection is made from more than 60 retailers in each capital city and 30 in each provincial town. Whenever necessary, supplementary information is obtained from other retailers.
- (ii) Information is collected under authority of the Census and Statistics Act 1905–1949, which requires that information be supplied accurately and promptly and ensures that particulars supplied by individual retailers will not be divulged to any other person or Government authority. Penalties are provided against failure to supply information, against supplying false information and against failure to answer truthfully any question asked by an authorized officer in respect of the contents of any return.
- (iii) The actual collection of information is carried out by qualified Field Officers of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics working under the supervision of the Statisticians of the respective States. These Field Officers have very wide powers of investigation, including entry of premises and inspection of goods, records, etc.
- (iv) The Field Officers not only receive and check returns but visit the retail shops concerned, whenever necessary, to obtain requisite information. In respect of articles of clothing and the like where variation of quality may be considerable, Field Officers are equipped with samples of the goods used for price comparisons. In such cases the Field Officers visit every retail informant at each quarterly collection and personally inspect the relevant goods and prices thereof.

- (v) Before each quarterly collection Supervising Field Officers review the standards of the whole of the items for which prices are collected, after making extensive inquiries among manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. These Supervising Field Officers periodically accompany Field Officers at their price collections and check their work. This not only ensures accuracy and assiduity but also that all Field Officers work on uniform lines and that, as far as care and effort can make it possible, prices are recorded for representative goods of constant quality.
- (vi) The lists of items and the standards thereof are revised from time to time to keep them in harmony with changing conditions. Where such changes become necessary, suitable adjustments are made in computing the retail price indexes to ensure that they reflect changes in price with due precision and that they are not vitiated by the influence of other changes. Because of rapidly changing conditions since 1948, prices have been ascertained for an extended list of items. The purpose of this is to ensure that the indexes are kept representative and reliable within their definitions.
- (vii) Returns of rents for unfurnished houses of four and five rooms are made at the middle of each quarter by a representative number (ranging up to 30) of house agents in each city and town covered by the indexes for brick and wooden houses respectively, classified according to number of rooms. These returns show the weekly rental of a substantial number of individual houses each of which is selected by the Field Officer as suitable for inclusion in a sample designed to measure the quarterly ratio of change in weekly rentals. The aim is to measure variations equivalent to change in price for a constant standard. The ratio of change is used to vary basic average rentals derived from Census results. Consideration is being given to the problem of obtaining data appropriate to a more broadly based housing component for the Interim Retail Price Index described in § 4 herein.

§ 2. Nature and Purpose of Retail Price Indexes.

1. **General.**—The basic principle of a retail price index is relatively simple. It is to select commodities representative of the field to be covered and to combine their prices at regular intervals in accordance with their relative importance in that field. The aim is to measure the degree of change in prices for the selected field taken as a whole.

In practice the application of this principle over a term of years presents great difficulty by reason of the numerous changes which occur in the type, grade and relative quantities of many of the items commonly used.

In compiling the retail price indexes the price of each item is multiplied by its quantity "weight" and then by its appropriate population or household "weight". The sum of these products for all items at any given date represents an "aggregate expenditure". The "aggregate expenditures" for successive periods are converted into an index by representing the aggregate of a selected or "base" period by an appropriate number (e.g., 100 or 1,000), and calculating all index numbers to such base by the proportions which their aggregates bear to the aggregate of the base period.

2. **Essential Features.**—Apart from clear thinking, common sense and sound arithmetic, the prime essentials in compiling a retail price index are—

- (a) that prices be accurately ascertained at regular intervals for goods of constant grade and quality;
- (b) that the list of items be as representative as possible of the field to be covered;
- (c) that the weights be in approximate proportion to quantities actually used in the selected field.

3. **The List of Items.**—The list of items must be a selected list because it is impossible in practice to ascertain at regular intervals prices of every item of goods and services entering into household expenditure. There is considerable difficulty in ensuring that the selected items are always a true sample. Some items which it would be desirable to include must be excluded because comparative prices cannot be accurately ascertained for them at different times and different places. It is deemed better to limit the list to items for which price variations can be ascertained with reasonable accuracy than to distend it by including items for which price comparisons are necessarily inaccurate. Similarly, many items of small aggregate or individual importance are excluded. The list therefore is not (as is sometimes erroneously supposed) a basic wage regimen, nor yet is it a full list of component items in a standard of living. It does not imply that any particular goods or any selected grades or quantities of these goods should enter into determination of a basic or living wage. The lists used are simply selected items combined in certain proportions for the purpose of measuring price variations. The items are representative of the fields covered, and the proportions approximate to those in average consumption so far as can be ascertained. The list of items in the "C" Series Retail Price Index is representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of wage earner households as current in pre-war years. That of the Interim Retail Price Index is similarly representative for post-war years as from 1950.

4. **Purpose of Retail Price Indexes.**—Retail price indexes are designed to measure the extent of changes in price levels only. While they may be used as indicating proportionate variations in cost of a *constant* standard of living, they do not measure the absolute cost of any standard of living, nor the absolute cost of changes in the standard of living. In other words, they measure, as nearly as may be, the proportionate change in the aggregate cost of specified quantities and qualities of the selected list of items included in the index. See also Resolution 13 (d) of Conference of Statisticians quoted on page 6 hereof.

5. **Effects of Variable Conditions on Indexes.**—Under variable conditions since 1940, scarcity of certain types of goods, erratic supply and changes of grades in common use have created recurrent difficulty in obtaining the data necessary for measuring variations in prices. In some instances, these factors, as well as technological development and changes in fashion, have rendered it necessary to substitute new grades, qualities or types of articles for those formerly used as indicators of changes in price. This has been the case more particularly in the clothing, household drapery and household utensils sections of the indexes. Substitutions of similar kind were necessary at times under pre-war conditions in order to meet changes of fashion and usage. Such substitutions help to keep the indexes representative of current conditions and are not injurious to an index provided the transitional difficulties can be solved as they arise. No change in principle is involved. The indexes continue to measure, as nearly as may be, price variations, and price variations only. Those differences in prices which are solely due to substitution of a new item

for one which has ceased to be available or in common use are neutralized by taking the price of the old item as typical of price variation in its class up to the time of substitution, and the prices of the new items as typical of such changes in price thereafter.

Popular usage of items in general consumption changes slowly and the weights of individual items and groups of items used in retail price indexes require to be changed only at long intervals. But at times, scarcity of supplies of some goods, rationing and kindred factors may actually produce short-term changes in usage. In such periods, continuity of the index requires that the weights applicable to the items in the index be not changed at frequent short intervals.

Nevertheless, it becomes desirable periodically to compile a new retail price index with a list of items and weights more representative of current usage than those of the former index. The problem of maintaining an index adequately representative of current usage has intensified since 1950 because of changes in the pattern of household expenditure and in modes of living.

The ensuing §§ 3 and 4 are the substance of a Statistical Bulletin issued in March, 1954 concerning the new Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 Base Year) then issued for the first time.

§ 3. Previous Retail Price Indexes.

1. **General.**—Four series of retail price indexes had been compiled at various times for Australia by the Commonwealth Statistician prior to 1954. Each of these was continued until changed conditions required the compilation of indexes more directly relevant to current conditions. The respective indexes were:—

- (i) *The "A" Series Index* (covering food, groceries and house rents) was first compiled in 1912 with the year 1911 as base=1,000. It was discontinued in June, 1938. From 1913 to May, 1933 this index was used for wage adjustment purposes by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. Some other tribunals continued to use it until 1938 in certain localities.
- (ii) *The "B" Series Index* (covering food, groceries and rent of 4 and 5 roomed houses) was first compiled in 1925 and continued until the December Quarter, 1953. It was the food and rent constituent of the "C" Series Index and was designed to replace the "A" Series Index for general statistical purposes. The "B" Series Index was not used by industrial tribunals in connexion with the adjustment of wages. Its publication was discontinued as from the December Quarter, 1953.
- (iii) *The "C" Series Index* (covering food and groceries, rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses, clothing, household drapery, household utensils, fuel, lighting, fares, smoking and some other miscellaneous items) was first compiled in 1921. It was used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for purposes of quarterly wage adjustments from May, 1934 to August, 1953. Some State tribunals use or consider it in their proceedings. Its publication in mimeograph each quarter continues for the present in the customary form and on its customary basis. For general statistical purposes it has been replaced by the Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 base year) described in the following pages.
- (iv) *The "D" Series Index*, derived by combining the "A" and "C" Series Indexes, was used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration from May, 1933 to May, 1934 and then discontinued.

Of the four retail price indexes described above, only the "C" Series continues to be compiled. The new Interim Retail Price Index, first published in March, 1954, will continue in its present form until the components of certain groups are finalized.

2. The "Court" Index.—In 1937 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration introduced a "Court" Index for the purpose of its system of making automatic quarterly adjustments to the basic wage within its jurisdiction. A "Court" Index (Second Series) was created by the Court in 1946 and a "Court" Index (Third Series) in November, 1950 to provide for automatic adjustment of the increased amounts of adjustable basic wage then determined by the Court at those dates. By decision of the Court the "Court" Index ceased to be issued by the Industrial Registrar as at the December Quarter, 1953. These "Court" Indexes were an arithmetical conversion of the "C" Series Retail Price Index.

§ 4. The Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 Base Year).

1. Origin of the Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 Base Year).—The list of component items and the weighting pattern of the "C" Series Retail Price Index were first adopted in 1921 but were reviewed by Conference of Statisticians in 1936. (See Labour Report No. 41, 1952, page 33, para. 2.)

From the outbreak of war in 1939 to late in 1948 periodic policy changes in regard to various war-time controls (including rationing) caused recurrent changes in consumption and the pattern of expenditure. This rendered it impracticable either to produce a new index or to revise the old one on any basis that would render the index more representative, than it already was, of the changing pattern. (See Labour Report No. 41, 1952, page 35, paras. 5 and 6, and Appendix, Section V., pages 164-213, especially page 174 showing the War-time "Trial" Index 1939-48 in comparison with the "C" Series Index with comments submitted in the Statistician's evidence before the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in July, 1949.)

When commodity rationing had virtually ceased in the latter part of 1948, action was taken by the Statistician to collect price data of about 100 additional items and to gather information as to current consumption and expenditure patterns. This was done to facilitate review of the component items and weighting system of the "C" Series Retail Price Index, in the light of the new pattern of wage earner expenditure and consumption then emerging.

By the middle of 1949 a considerable number of new price series was coming into being and the body of data available as to expenditure and consumption (in the post-rationing period) was beginning to indicate something of the new weighting pattern likely to be appropriate for post-war review of the components and construction of the "C" Series Index. The position at that time and the action then taken were set out in a Memorandum submitted in evidence by the Statistician to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in July, 1949. This was reprinted in Section V. of the Appendix to Labour Report No. 41, 1952, pp. 164-213.

There supervened in the next two years conditions which caused wide price dispersion, a very rapid rise in prices and a new sequence of changes in consumption and the pattern of wage earner expenditure. Under these conditions it was not possible to devise any new weighting pattern for the years 1949–50, 1950–51 and 1951–52 likely to be better suited to the index or more continuously representative of conditions then current than was the existing “C” Series Index on the 1936 revision. It was therefore decided by Conference of Statisticians to defer revision of the weighting system and component items of the “C” Series Index, and the new data on prices and consumption were used to test whether the aggregate “C” Series Index was reasonably reliable for current use as a retail price index.

In June, 1953, Conference of Statisticians was advised by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician (a) that although the aggregate “C” Series Index (as verified by supplementary indexes) was still reasonably reliable for current use, some of the component groups (more particularly food and miscellaneous) were not satisfactory individually; and (b) that the time had arrived either to produce a new index or to reconstruct the “C” Series Index extensively.

Concurrently in 1953 the Acting Commonwealth Statistician indicated (in successive Quarterly Statistical Statements containing the “C” Series Retail Price Index) that a memorandum would be prepared and issued on the subject of the index and the question of its weighting pattern and list of component items. The matter of the proposed memorandum was mentioned by a witness in evidence before the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in August, 1953. But as none of the parties to the Basic Wage Case then proceeding desired to raise any issue as to the adequacy or validity of the “C” Series Index for purposes of the Court, the Statistician did not present any memorandum or evidence in that case.

A Statistical Bulletin issued in March, 1954 and reproduced in this and the preceding section contains the substance of the memorandum then contemplated, with the addition of the new Interim Index.

The Interim Retail Price Index has been compiled pursuant to Resolution 13 of the Conference of Statisticians in June, 1953, reading:—

“13. *Retail Price Indexes*—

- (a) That, in view of the persistence of recurrent changes in the pattern of consumer expenditure in the post-war period, it is undesirable to make a general revision of the list of items and weighting system of the “C” Series Retail Price Index at present, unless industrial tribunals expressly desire some revision for special purposes.
- (b) That an Interim Retail Price Index be compiled with putative weights and components representative, as nearly as may be, of the post-war pattern of consumer usage and expenditure.
- (c) That, having regard to the complexities of the problem and the limit of staff resources available, such interim index relate only to each capital city and to the six capital cities combined.
- (d) That attention be drawn again to the statement already published that the “C” Series Retail Price Index cannot measure changes in relative retail price levels as between capital cities consistently with its main purpose of measuring periodic changes in retail price levels for each city.
- (e) That the problem of measuring comparative retail price levels as between cities at any point of time differs in principle from the problem of measuring periodic variations in price levels in an individual city”.

In conformity with Section (a) of the foregoing Resolution, the "C" Series Retail Price Index has continued to be compiled and published quarterly in its customary form.

The Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 base year) is compiled to implement Section (b) of Conference Resolution and used as the current retail price index in statistical publications of the Commonwealth Statistician for general statistical purposes, irrespective of what use is made of either index by any industrial tribunal for its own purposes.

In this regard the position is that industrial tribunals themselves decide what use (if any) they make of any available retail price index or whether they desire the Statistician to compile some special-purpose index for them. It is not the practice for the Statistician to express any view as to whether such tribunals should use retail price indexes in their deliberations. The Statistician, in the normal course of his duties, compiles and publishes various price indexes, states their definition (what they measure), explains how they are constructed and gives evidence or public information when desired concerning them.

With respect to Sections (d) and (e) of the Conference Resolution the Statistician is prepared to compile data as to relative price levels in respective capital cities on the basis specified by an industrial tribunal for its purposes. The Interim Retail Price Index relates only to six capital cities of Australia, because it is not practicable with existing staff resources to collect price data for the greatly enlarged list of items for 28 other cities and towns. These continue to be covered for the less extensive list of items used for the "C" Series Index.

2. Definition of the Interim Retail Price Index.—This index provides the interim results of researches designed to measure retail price variations for each of six capital cities individually (with 1952-53 = 100 as base year for each city) on the basis of:—

- (a) a current pattern of wage earner expenditure using recent consumption weights for foods and recent expenditure weights for combining groups of items into the aggregate index;
- (b) a wider range of commodities and services than that covered by any existing price index in order to provide greater representativeness; and
- (c) individual city weights for such items as electricity, gas and fares.

The components and weighting of the Interim Retail Price Index are being reviewed in the light of data derived from the Census of Retail Sales as to consumer expenditure on various kinds of goods, estimates of consumer expenditure on services relevant to construction of a retail price index of this type and data as to rents and housing derived from the Census of 30th June, 1954 and additional special surveys. It is proposed to cast the index into final form as soon as possible and this may entail some revision in the index.

3. Differences between the Structure of the Interim Retail Price Index and the "C" Series Retail Price Index.—The main differences between the structure of the Interim Retail Price Index and that of the "C" Series Retail Price Index are (a) the group weights and item weights of the Interim Index relate broadly to the consumption pattern 1950-53, while those of the "C" Series Index relate to pre-war years; and (b) the Interim Index includes a large number of items not included in the "C" Series Index. A full list of the items used in the Interim Index is shown in § 4, pp. 9-12 hereof. The list of items in the Interim Index is to be amended in some respects when the index is put into final form.

The differences in structure of each group of items as adopted for the Interim Retail Price Index are summarized below:—

(i) *Food Group*.—(a) The weights of some of the main items (e.g., milk, eggs, meat, potatoes and flour) in the Interim Index are substantially different from those in the "C" Series Index to accord generally with average consumption in the years 1949–50 to 1952–53. (b) Twenty-four new items have been added to the Food Group, extending the group coverage over a wider field. The principal new items are lamb, packaged breakfast foods, biscuits, ice cream, packet cheese, honey, sandwich spreads, coffee, cocoa, soft drinks and certain types of confectionery. (c) The total number of items in the Food Group of the Interim Index is 60 as compared with 38 in the "C" Series Index. Two items which were included in the "C" Series Index are not included in the Interim Index owing to the difficulty of securing satisfactory price data for them. Two non-food items (soap and kerosene) included in the Food and Groceries Group of the "C" Series Index appear in the Household Sundries Group of the Interim Index. The Group name "Food and Groceries" in the "C" Series Index is changed to "Food" in the Interim Index.

(ii) *Clothing and Drapery Group*.—In the Interim Index, 17 new items have been added to the Clothing and Drapery Group, and 25 items each formerly represented by one type of article are now each represented by two or more types. Consequential adjustments have been made in weights of individual items. The principal new items added to this group are:—sports coat, sports trousers, cardigan (and other types of knitted wear), overalls, piece-goods (rayon, cotton and woollen) and knitting wool.

(iii) *Rent Group*.—This group is almost identical in both indexes. Available data indicate (a) that, in general, very few new houses have been built by private owners for renting in the post-war years; (b) that in some cities considerable numbers of new Government houses have been built for renting or occupancy on a quasi-rental basis; and (c) that there has been a substantial increase in the numbers of owner-occupied houses, including new instalment-purchase or quasi-instalment-purchase houses under Governmental and private housing schemes. In recent years the difficulty of obtaining data suitable for the housing component of a price index has therefore intensified. The Census of 1954 showed that a very rapid diminution had occurred since 1947 in both the numbers and proportions of privately rented houses. Supplementary surveys in 1956 and 1957 indicated a continuation of this trend in the six capital cities. Further study is therefore being given to the hitherto intractable problems associated with measuring at quarterly intervals "housing price" variations in a form suitable for use in a retail price index in respect of owner-occupied houses, instalment-purchase houses, and houses occupied under the various types of Governmental housing schemes.

(iv) *Other Groups*.—Six new sub-groups are included in the Interim Index to replace Sections L, M and N of the Miscellaneous Group of the "C" Series Index. These six sub-groups of the new index comprise 75 items as compared with 32 in the old index, substantially enlarging their representativeness. The principal new items are garden tools, floor coverings, shaving cream, toilet soap, etc., patent medicines, baby foods, haircuts, dry cleaning, shoe repairs, postage, etc. Necessary adjustments have been made to bring the group weight into conformity with recent expenditure and consumption patterns. The weight of this group is much greater than it was in the "C" Series Index. Further extensions of the list of items are under consideration and research is proceeding into problems of weighting for additional items.

(v) *Group Weights*.—The group weights in the new Interim Index have been brought into general conformity with the estimated group distribution of wage earner household expenditure in recent years over the field covered. In some cases the weights are putative weights assessed on available data and are subject to some revision.

In the year 1952-53 the ratio of the individual group "aggregate expenditure" to the "aggregate expenditure" of the whole index for the six capital cities combined was as follows:—

Group.	"C" Series Retail Price Index. (Per cent.)	Interim Retail Price Index. (Per cent.)
Food	41.0	37.1
Clothing and Drapery ..	33.0	26.8
Rent	11.3	9.0
Other Groups	14.7	27.1
	100.0	100.0

In the Interim Index common weights are adopted for all groups and items in the index for each city except in respect of fares, gas, electricity and some minor items. The resultant indexes measure price movement from period to period for *each city separately*. While they indicate *degree* of price movement from time to time for respective cities, they do not indicate the *relative* level of prices (or level of living costs) in each city.

For that reason the Interim Index of each city in the base year 1952-53 is 100. In the case of the "C" Series Index as published herein, the weighted average of the six capital cities combined is 1,000 on the base period 1923-27 and the index of each individual capital city is in ratio thereto (except where "C" Series Indexes of each city have been arithmetically converted to the base 100 for the year 1952-53 for purposes of comparison with the Interim Index).

4. *List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index*.—The following is a list of items embraced within the Interim Retail Price Index. Items included in the Interim Index and not in the "C" Series Retail Price Index are denoted by asterisks.

List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index.

FOOD—

Cereal Products—

- Bread.
- Flour, Plain.
- Flour, Self-raising.
- Biscuits.*
- Flaked Oats.
- Rice.
- Prepared Breakfast Foods—
 - From Wheat.*
 - From Maize.*

FOOD—continued.

Dairy Produce—

- Milk, Fresh.
- Milk, Powdered.*
- Milk, Condensed.
- Cheese, Packet.*
- Cheese, Mild.
- Butter.
- Eggs.
- Bacon.

List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index—*continued.*Food—*continued.*

Potatoes, Onions, Preserved Fruit and Vegetables—
 Peaches, Canned.
 Pears, Canned.
 Raisins, Seeded.
 Currants, Loose.
 Prunes.*
 Green Peas, Canned.*
 Potatoes.
 Onions.

Soft Drink, Chocolate Confectionery and Ice Cream—
 Soft Drink.*
 Chocolate Confectionery.*
 Ice Cream.*

Other (except Meat)—

Sugar.
 Jam.
 Golden Syrup.
 Honey.*
 Sandwich Spreads.*
 Baked Beans.*
 Spaghetti.*
 Sardines.*
 Margarine.*
 Seed Tapioca.
 Sauce, Tomato.*
 Tea.
 Cocoa.*
 Coffee.*

Meat—

Beef—

Sirloin Roast.
 Rib Roast.
 Steak—Rump.
 Steak—Blade.*
 Steak—Chuck.
 Sausages.
 Silverside.
 Brisket.

Mutton—

Leg.
 Forequarter.
 Chops, Loin.
 Chops, Leg.

Lamb—

Leg.*
 Forequarter.*
 Chops, Loin.*
 Chops, Leg.*

Pork—

Leg.
 Loin.
 Chops.

CLOTHING AND DRAPERY—

Men's—

Suit.
 Overcoat.
 Sports Coat.*
 Sports Trousers.*

CLOTHING AND DRAPERY—*continued.*Men's—*continued.*

Pullover.
 Cardigan.*
 Pullover (Sleeveless).*
 Working Trousers (Cotton).
 Working Trousers (Wool).*
 Overalls.*
 Shirt, Ordinary Wear.
 Shirt, Work.
 Singlet, Flannel.*
 Singlet, Wool and Cotton.
 Singlet, Athletic.
 Underpants, Wool and Cotton.
 Underpants, Cotton.
 Pyjamas.
 Socks.
 Hats.
 Braces.
 Handkerchiefs.

Women's—

Costume.
 Skirt.
 Cardigan.
 Twin Set.*
 Dress, Cotton.
 Dress, Rayon.
 Slip.
 Vest, Wool and Rayon.
 Vest, Rayon.
 Panties, Bloomers, etc.
 Brassiere.
 Nightdress.
 Pyjamas.
 Corsets.*
 Stockings, Nylon.
 Stockings, Lisle.
 Hat, Felt.
 Beret.*
 Hat, Straw.
 Gloves, Fabric.
 Gloves, Nappa.
 Umbrella.*
 Apron.

Children's—

Boys'—

Suit.
 Overcoat.
 Pants.
 Pullover.
 Shirt—
 Sports.
 Ranger.
 Singlet—
 Wool.
 Cotton Athletic.
 Hose—
 Golf.
 Anklet.
 Pyjamas.
 Cap.
 Braces.

List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index—continued.

CLOTHING AND DRAPERY—continued.

Children's—continued.

Girls'—

- Tunic.
- Overcoat.
- Blazer.*
- Pullover.
- Dress.
- Petticoat.
- Singlet—
 - Wool and Rayon.
 - Rayon.
- Panties, Bloomers, etc.—
 - Fleecy Lined.
 - Rayon.
- Pyjamas—
 - Winceyette.
 - Rayon.
- Socks.
- Hat—
 - Felt.
 - Straw.

Piecegoods, etc.—

- Rayon.*
- Cotton.*
- Woollen.*
- Fingering Wool.*

Footwear—

Men's—

- Working Boots.
- Shoes.

Women's—

- Shoes, Best.
- Shoes, Ordinary.

Children's—

- Shoes, Boys'.
- Girls' Best.
- Girls' School.
- Young Children's.

Household Drapery—

- Blankets, D.B.
- Blankets, S.B.
- Sheets, D.B.
- Sheets, S.B.
- Sheeting.*
- Pillow Slip.
- Pillow.*
- Towel.
- Tea Towel.

RENT—

- Four and five-roomed tenanted houses.

OTHER GROUPS—

Electricity, Gas, and Firewood—

- Electricity.
- Gas.
- Firewood.

Household Sundries—

- Household Utensils—
 - Plate, Dinner.
 - Jug.
 - Pudding Basin.

OTHER GROUPS—continued.

Household Sundries—continued.

Household Utensils—continued.

- Tumbler.
- Saucepan.
- Pressure Cooker.*
- Cake Tin.*
- Frying Pan.*
- Boiler.*
- Cutlery—
 - Knife.
 - Tea Spoon.
 - Dessert Spoon.
 - Table Fork.
- Globe, Electric.
- Iron, Electric.
- Toaster, Electric.*
- Jug, Electric.*
- Spade.*
- Fork.*
- Rake.*
- Hoe.*
- Lawn Mower.*
- Bucket.
- Broom—
 - Millet.
 - Hair.
- Scrubbing Brush.
- Polishing Mop.
- Axe.*
- Floor Coverings—
 - Carpet.*
 - Linoleum.*
 - Felt.*
- Other—
 - Matches.*
 - Kerosene.
 - Steel Wool.*
 - Boot Polish.*
 - Starch.*
 - Cleaner Paste.*
 - Soap, Household.
 - Soap, Powder.*
 - Personal Requisites—
 - Toilet Soap.*
 - Shaving Cream.*
 - Tooth Paste.*
 - Razor Blades.*
 - Antiseptic.*
 - Proprietary Medicines, etc.—
 - Cough Mixture.*
 - Tonic.*
 - A.P.C.*
 - Cascara.*
 - Ointment.*
 - Baby Food.*
 - School Requisites—
 - Lead Pencil.
 - Penholder.
 - Nibs.
 - Eraser.
 - Ruler.
 - Pastels.
 - Blotting Paper.
 - Exercise Books.

List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index—continued.**OTHER GROUPS—continued.***Services—*

Hairdressing.*

Drycleaning—

Men's—

Suit (3 piece).*

Suit (2 piece).*

Sports Trousers.*

Sports Coat.*

Women's—

Frock.*

Skirt.*

Overcoat.*

Shoe Repairs—

Men's.*

Boys'.*

Women's.*

Postage.*

Telegram.*

Telephone—

Private Phone Call.*

Public Phone Call.*

Rental.*

OTHER GROUPS—continued.*Cinema Admission, Radio Licence and Newspapers—*

Cinema—

Adult Admission.

Child's Admission.

Radio Licence.

Newspapers—

Morning.

Evening.

Fares (City and Suburban Train, Tram and Bus)—

Train Fares.

Tram and Bus Fares.

Tobacco and Cigarettes—

Cigarettes—

Australian.

Imported.*

Tobacco (Australian)—

Cigarette.

Pipe.

Cigarette Papers.

5. Comparison of Trends of the Interim Retail Price Index with Trends of the "C" Series Retail Price Index.—The following table shows for each of the years 1952–53 to 1956–57 and for each quarter from the December Quarter, 1954 to the December Quarter, 1957 the Interim Index for the six capital cities combined, with the year 1952–53 as base = 100, in comparison with the "C" Series Index arithmetically converted to the same base:—

Period.				Six Capital Cities (Weighted Average).			
				"C" Series Index.		Interim Index.	
				A	B	A	B
Year ended June—1953	..	..		100.0		100.0	100.0
1954	..	..		102.8		102.2	102.5
1955	..	..		103.7		103.7	103.6
				A	B		
1956	..	..		107.5	108.8	107.0	108.0
1957	..	..		112.2	114.1	113.0	114.3
Quarter—1954: December	..	..		103.2		103.4	103.2
1955: March	..	..		103.9		103.8	103.8
June	..	..		105.0		104.5	104.7
				A	B		
September	..	..		105.9	106.6	105.1	105.7
December	..	..		106.7	107.7	106.3	107.0
1956: March	..	..		107.8	109.0	107.4	108.3
June	..	..		109.7	111.8	109.4	110.8
September	..	..		111.1	115.6	111.5	114.4
December	..	..		111.7	114.2	112.5	114.2
1957: March	..	..		112.6	112.8	113.5	113.7
June	..	..		113.5	113.8	114.5	114.8
September	..	..		114.0	113.8	115.1	115.1
December	..	..		114.0	113.5	115.1	114.9

NOTE.—Indexes in Columns "A" exclude, and those in Columns "B" include, potatoes and onions. See paragraph 6 on page 15.

The figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted merely to avoid the distortion that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. For instance, if the Interim Indexes of the Six Capital Cities (Weighted Average) for each quarter of 1953 were rounded off to 100, 102, 102 and 102 respectively, they would suggest a rise of 2 per cent. in the June Quarter, 1953 and no change in the September Quarter, 1953. The figures for the Interim Index as presented in the table indicate a rise of the order of 1 per cent. in the June Quarter, 1953, and 1 per cent. in the September Quarter, 1953. Price indexes cannot measure aggregate price variations with an accuracy of the order of one-tenth of 1 per cent.

With changing conditions significant divergencies may occur between the movements shown by a retail price index (such as the "C" Series Index) constructed on pre-war weights and a comparatively limited range of major items and a retail price index (such as the Interim Index) constructed on 1950-53 weights and a broader list of items.

Due regard should be paid to the fact that a composite price index is necessarily an approximate summary which combines into one aggregate price variations of many items. Any more rigid use of the index for specific purposes is the responsibility of the bodies or persons using the indexes.

The following indexes are based on the year 1952-53 = 100 for *each* city. They therefore measure price movements from period to period *for each city separately*. While they indicate *degree* of price movement from time to time for respective cities, they do not indicate the *relative* level of prices (or level of living costs) in each city.

At times appreciable disparities appear in the movement of the respective indexes for individual cities from quarter to quarter. The Interim Index, being based on recent weights and an extended list of items, is the more representative measure of current quarterly retail price variations.

Pending completion of investigations into the problem of devising a housing component more widely based than the present rent component, housing is represented in both indexes only by rentals of private houses of 4 and 5 rooms. As the laws governing rent control differ as between cities and as modifications therein are made in varying degrees and at irregular intervals, both indexes (including this rent component) show sporadic periodic movements due to sudden changes in law relating to rents. These are reflected in Table A below.

In order to provide a clearer perspective of the movement of retail *commodity* prices, Table B has been compiled to embrace all commodities and services (other than rents) which are included within the respective indexes.

"C" SERIES AND INTERIM RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base of Each Index for Each City: Year 1952-53 = 100.0.)

TABLE A.—ALL GROUPS INCLUDING RENT.(a)

Quarter.	SYDNEY.		MELBOURNE.		BRISBANE.		ADELAIDE.		PERTH.		HOBART.		SIX CAPITALS. (Weighted Average).	
	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.
1954—September ..	101.9	102.2	101.4	101.8	102.4	102.8	103.3	102.5	111.9	109.0	104.7	105.1	102.6	102.7
December ..	102.8	102.9	101.7	102.2	103.7	103.6	103.5	102.8	111.5	108.7	104.6	104.9	103.2	103.2
1955—March ..	103.3	103.4	102.6	102.9	104.5	104.5	104.3	103.5	112.0	109.3	105.6	105.8	103.9	103.8
June ..	104.1	103.8	103.9	104.0	105.0	105.1	106.2	105.4	114.4	111.2	106.6	106.6	105.0	104.7
September ..	105.5	104.6	106.7	105.8	105.8	105.6	106.8	106.0	114.1	111.1	107.9	108.2	106.6	105.7
December ..	106.2	105.4	108.6	108.3	105.8	106.0	107.7	106.4	114.7	111.6	109.8	109.6	107.7	107.0
1956—March ..	107.0	106.2	110.6	110.4	107.6	107.3	107.8	106.8	116.0	113.1	113.6	113.0	109.0	108.3
June ..	109.8	108.5	113.9	113.3	109.4	109.5	110.7	109.7	117.9	115.2	115.4	115.1	111.8	110.8
September ..	114.5	114.0	117.2	115.7	112.8	111.9	114.0	111.6	119.4	116.6	118.2	118.3	115.6	114.4
December ..	112.7	113.8	116.1	115.5	111.2	111.2	112.7	110.9	119.8	117.6	118.6	119.4	114.2	114.2
1957—March ..	111.9	113.7	113.5	114.1	110.5	111.4	109.8	109.7	120.9	118.7	117.5	118.9	112.8	113.7
June ..	112.5	114.7	115.3	115.3	111.2	112.4	111.5	111.3	122.5	120.2	118.4	119.6	113.8	114.8
September ..	112.7	115.0	114.5	115.5	111.5	112.5	112.2	112.2	122.4	120.1	117.2	118.8	113.8	115.1
December ..	112.3	114.8	114.1	115.3	112.9	113.4	111.3	111.7	120.6	119.1	117.4	119.1	113.5	114.9

TABLE B.—COMMODITIES AND SERVICES EXCLUDING RENT.(a)

(The following indexes relate to food, groceries, clothing and miscellaneous items other than rent.)

Quarter.	SYDNEY.		MELBOURNE.		BRISBANE.		ADELAIDE.		PERTH.		HOBART.		SIX CAPITALS. (Weighted Average).	
	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.
1954—September ..	100.9	101.5	101.4	101.8	102.1	102.7	103.3	102.4	106.8	104.6	104.1	104.7	101.8	102.1
December ..	101.8	102.2	101.7	102.2	103.5	103.5	103.4	102.6	106.2	104.2	103.9	104.4	102.4	102.5
1955—March ..	102.4	102.7	102.7	103.0	104.4	104.4	104.2	103.4	106.6	104.8	105.1	105.5	103.2	103.2
June ..	103.3	103.2	104.1	104.1	104.9	105.0	105.8	105.0	108.9	106.5	106.2	106.3	104.4	104.1
September ..	104.7	104.0	107.1	106.1	105.7	105.6	106.1	105.3	108.2	106.1	107.7	108.1	106.0	105.2
December ..	105.5	104.8	109.3	108.9	105.8	106.0	106.9	105.7	108.6	106.5	109.8	109.5	107.2	106.5
1956—March ..	106.3	105.6	109.5	109.5	107.6	107.3	106.7	105.9	109.8	107.7	110.2	110.3	107.8	107.3
June ..	109.5	108.1	113.1	112.6	109.6	109.6	109.7	108.8	111.4	109.6	111.5	112.1	110.9	109.9
September ..	114.8	114.2	116.7	115.1	113.3	112.2	113.1	110.7	112.7	110.9	114.3	115.3	115.0	113.8
December ..	112.8	113.9	115.4	114.8	111.3	111.2	111.3	109.6	113.0	111.8	114.3	116.2	113.4	113.5
1957—March ..	111.6	113.7	112.5	113.2	110.4	111.3	107.6	108.0	114.0	113.0	112.7	115.3	111.5	112.8
June ..	112.0	114.6	113.6	114.4	111.0	112.3	109.3	109.5	115.6	114.3	113.5	116.0	112.4	113.9
September ..	112.1	114.9	113.3	114.5	111.1	112.3	109.7	110.2	115.2	114.0	112.0	115.0	112.3	114.0
December ..	111.5	114.5	112.8	114.3	112.5	113.2	108.4	109.6	113.0	112.7	111.9	115.0	111.8	113.7

(a) Including potatoes and onions. See paragraph 6 on page 15.

6. Compilation of Indexes Including and Excluding Price Movement of Potatoes and Onions.—Abnormally large seasonal fluctuations in prices of potatoes and onions had a major effect (first upwards and then downwards) on the movement of the price indexes in most cities from the September Quarter, 1956 to the March Quarter, 1957. These transient fluctuations also caused highly disparate movements in the aggregate indexes as between cities. In order to provide an indication of the recent trend of the indexes apart from these abnormally large seasonal fluctuations, index numbers excluding the effects of price movements of potatoes and onions are calculated for comparison with those which include the items.

The Interim Retail Price Index is calculated both inclusive and exclusive of potatoes and onions as from the base period 1952-53. For the "C" Series Retail Price Index, index numbers excluding the price movement of potatoes and onions have been calculated as from (and including) the September Quarter, 1955.

7. Tabular Statements of Interim Retail Price Index Numbers.—Information relating to the Interim Retail Price index numbers is published as follows:—

Monthly.—The *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* contains annual and quarterly index numbers to the latest available date.

Quarterly.—Statements are issued about three weeks after the end of each quarter relating to the Interim Retail Price Index for that quarter and immediately preceding quarters. The *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* contains annual and quarterly index numbers to the latest available date.

Annual.—In addition to the information published in the annual Labour Report, the *Official Year Book* contains a brief summary concerning the Index.

On the following pages are published:—

- (i) the Interim Retail Price index numbers for each of the years ended June from 1953 to 1957, and for each quarter during the period December Quarter, 1956 to December Quarter, 1957, for each capital city and for the six capital cities combined, and showing also separate indexes for each of the four groups of items (page 16);
- (ii) the Interim Retail Price index numbers for each of the years ended June from 1953 to 1957, and for each quarter during the period December Quarter, 1954 to December Quarter, 1957, for the weighted average of the six capital cities combined, showing also separate indexes for each of the four groups of items (page 17).

INTERIM RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base of each Index: Year 1952-53 = 100.)

NOTE.—The index numbers hereunder are designed to measure aggregate variations in retail prices of specified groups of items for specified cities individually. They measure variations from time to time and not differences in price level as between cities nor comparative costs of groups of items.

City.	Year ended June, 1953.	Year ended June, 1954.	Year ended June, 1955.	Year ended June, 1956.	Year ended June, 1957.	1956.	1957.				
						Dec. Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	Sept. Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.	
GROUP I.—FOOD (EXCLUDING POTATOES AND ONIONS).(a)											
Sydney ..	100.0	101.5	104.0	106.7	111.4	110.8	111.8	111.8	112.6	111.9	
Melbourne ..	100.0	103.8	104.7	109.9	114.2	113.8	114.5	115.2	115.6	114.3	
Brisbane ..	100.0	102.2	103.4	104.7	108.4	107.2	108.6	110.1	110.0	112.5	
Adelaide ..	100.0	102.5	106.3	108.7	111.1	109.7	110.7	112.7	113.3	110.7	
Perth ..	100.0	106.3	109.4	111.0	115.8	114.3	115.8	118.0	116.6	113.5	
Hobart ..	100.0	106.9	106.7	111.3	115.3	115.7	115.5	115.9	114.5	114.8	
Six Capitals(b)	100.0	102.8	104.8	108.1	112.4	111.6	112.6	113.3	113.7	112.8	

GROUP I.—FOOD (INCLUDING POTATOES AND ONIONS).											
Sydney ..	100.0	102.4	103.6	109.0	114.4	114.2	112.1	112.4	112.3	110.9	
Melbourne ..	100.0	104.6	104.3	112.9	118.6	120.2	115.4	116.5	115.9	114.6	
Brisbane ..	100.0	104.1	104.2	108.1	112.1	111.6	109.9	111.1	110.5	112.1	
Adelaide ..	100.0	103.5	106.2	111.1	114.9	111.7	110.9	113.4	113.1	110.4	
Perth ..	100.0	106.3	109.5	111.3	116.8	115.4	116.7	118.8	117.5	114.0	
Hobart ..	100.0	107.7	106.8	113.6	118.3	120.4	116.7	117.0	114.2	114.2	
Six Capitals(b)	100.0	103.7	104.6	110.6	115.8	116.2	113.2	114.2	113.8	112.4	

GROUP II.—CLOTHING AND DRAPERY.											
Sydney ..	100.0	101.7	102.3	103.0	105.9	105.7	106.6	107.6	108.1	108.7	
Melbourne ..	100.0	101.3	102.2	103.9	106.4	105.8	106.6	109.0	109.6	110.3	
Brisbane ..	100.0	101.7	102.9	103.3	105.8	104.9	106.7	107.9	108.3	109.1	
Adelaide ..	100.0	102.2	102.9	102.9	103.9	103.2	104.1	105.5	106.2	107.1	
Perth ..	100.0	100.9	101.6	103.0	105.4	104.4	106.0	107.3	107.7	108.3	
Hobart ..	100.0	102.6	103.1	104.6	107.8	106.8	108.6	109.6	109.9	110.4	
Six Capitals(b)	100.0	101.6	102.4	103.3	105.8	105.3	106.3	107.9	108.4	109.1	

GROUP III.—RENT(c) (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES).											
Sydney ..	100.0	107.7	109.5	111.3	113.5	112.4	114.2	115.4	116.9	117.9	
Melbourne ..	100.0	100.8	102.3	111.9	123.3	122.4	123.6	125.2	125.9	126.6	
Brisbane ..	100.0	102.9	105.2	107.0	111.0	110.3	111.7	113.3	115.0	115.5	
Adelaide ..	100.0	102.7	105.6	114.9	124.8	123.7	126.3	128.1	131.2	132.6	
Perth ..	100.0	110.8	149.6	159.1	169.2	168.5	169.7	171.8	173.5	174.7	
Hobart ..	100.0	108.8	109.4	126.1	151.9	150.9	153.9	155.0	156.8	158.9	
Six Capitals(b)	100.0	105.0	109.6	115.5	122.5	121.5	123.1	124.6	126.1	127.0	

GROUP IV.—OTHER ITEMS.											
Sydney ..	100.0	100.5	100.9	103.6	121.5	121.4	122.5	124.1	124.6	124.8	
Melbourne ..	100.0	100.9	101.3	109.6	116.4	116.4	116.7	116.9	117.4	117.7	
Brisbane ..	100.0	103.0	104.5	110.1	117.9	118.0	118.6	119.0	119.4	119.6	
Adelaide ..	100.0	99.3	99.9	103.7	107.9	107.9	108.3	108.5	110.5	111.1	
Perth ..	100.0	100.8	101.9	106.4	113.7	114.5	114.8	115.3	115.6	115.7	
Hobart ..	100.0	108.2	105.1	110.3	120.1	119.7	120.3	121.1	121.2	121.0	
Six Capitals(b)	100.0	100.9	101.4	106.4	117.8	117.8	118.5	119.3	119.9	120.1	

NOTE.—For footnotes see next page.

INTERIM RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS—continued.

(Base of each Index: Year 1952-53 = 100.)

City.	Year ended June, 1953.	Year ended June, 1954.	Year ended June, 1955.	Year ended June, 1956.	Year ended June, 1957.	1956.	1957.			
						Dec. Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	Sept. Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.
ALL GROUPS* (EXCLUDING POTATOES AND ONIONS).(a)										
Sydney ..	100.0	101.9	103.2	105.3	113.0	112.6	113.7	114.5	115.2	115.2
Melbourne ..	100.0	102.1	102.9	108.4	113.5	113.1	113.7	114.8	115.3	115.2
Brisbane ..	100.0	102.3	103.7	105.9	110.3	109.5	110.9	112.0	112.3	113.6
Adelaide ..	100.0	101.6	103.6	106.3	109.5	108.7	109.7	111.0	112.2	111.8
Perth ..	100.0	103.9	109.5	112.6	117.9	117.2	118.4	119.9	119.8	118.9
Hobart ..	100.0	106.3	105.6	110.6	118.0	117.7	118.5	119.2	119.0	119.4
Six Capitals(b)	100.0	102.2	103.7	107.0	113.0	112.5	113.5	114.5	115.1	115.1

ALL GROUPS (INCLUDING POTATOES AND ONIONS).										
Sydney ..	100.0	102.2	103.1	106.1	114.1	113.8	113.7	114.7	115.0	114.8
Melbourne ..	100.0	102.4	102.7	109.5	115.1	115.5	114.1	115.3	115.5	115.3
Brisbane ..	100.0	103.0	104.0	107.1	111.7	111.2	111.4	112.4	112.5	113.4
Adelaide ..	100.0	102.0	103.6	107.2	110.9	110.9	109.7	111.3	112.2	111.7
Perth ..	100.0	103.9	109.6	112.7	118.3	117.6	118.7	120.2	120.1	119.1
Hobart ..	100.0	106.6	105.6	111.5	119.1	119.4	118.9	119.6	118.8	119.1
Six Capitals ^(b)	100.0	102.5	103.6	108.0	114.3	114.2	113.7	114.8	115.1	114.9

(a) See paragraph 6 on page 15. (b) Weighted average. (c) Rent.—The rent index numbers shown in the table above and elsewhere in this publication measure the proportionate rise and fall in the average weekly rentals paid for houses of four and five rooms taking corresponding houses throughout. They are "price" indexes in the strict sense, i.e., they are designed to measure only the "price" element in rent fluctuations. Rentals of new tenanted houses completed since the end of the war are not taken into account.

INTERIM RETAIL PRICE INDEX: GROUP INDEXES.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX CAPITAL CITIES.

(Base: Year 1952-53=100.)

Period.	Food. ^(a)		Clothing and Drapery.	Rent. ^(b)	Other Items.	Aggregate All Groups. ^(a)	
	A	B				A	B
Year ended June—							
1953 ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1954 ..	102.8	103.7	101.6	105.0	100.9	102.2	102.5
1955 ..	104.8	104.6	102.4	109.6	101.4	103.7	103.6
1956 ..	108.1	110.6	103.3	115.5	106.4	107.0	108.0
1957 ..	112.4	115.8	105.8	122.5	117.8	113.0	114.3
Quarter ended—							
1954—December ..	104.3	103.7	102.3	109.3	101.2	103.4	103.2
1955—March ..	105.3	105.3	102.4	109.7	101.2	103.8	103.8
June ..	106.0	106.4	103.3	110.5	101.9	104.5	104.7
September ..	106.7	108.2	103.3	111.4	102.8	105.1	105.7
December ..	107.0	109.0	103.4	112.0	106.2	106.3	107.0
1956—March ..	108.2	110.6	103.3	118.8	106.7	107.4	108.3
June ..	110.7	114.5	103.4	119.7	110.1	109.4	110.8
September ..	111.9	119.6	103.8	120.6	115.6	111.5	114.4
December ..	111.6	116.2	105.3	121.5	117.8	112.5	114.2
1957—March ..	112.6	113.2	106.3	123.1	118.5	113.5	113.7
June ..	113.3	114.2	107.9	124.6	119.3	114.5	114.8
September ..	113.7	113.8	108.4	126.1	119.9	115.1	115.1
December ..	112.8	112.4	109.1	127.0	120.1	115.1	114.9

(a) Indexes in Columns "A" exclude, and those in Columns "B" include, potatoes and onions. See paragraph 6 on page 15.

(b) See note (c) above.

§ 5. The "C" Series Retail Price Index: 1914-1957.

1. **Construction.**—Full particulars relating to the construction, items, weights and method of tabulation of the "C" Series Retail Price Index were last published in Labour Report No. 41, 1952, on pages 10-18. Tabular statements of index numbers were shown on pages 19-27, and historical particulars of the index, and its relation to automatic basic wage variations prior to 12th September, 1953, on pages 32-40.

2. **Significant Dates.**—The following table furnishes index numbers for the six capital cities as a whole, for certain significant dates since November, 1914—the earliest date for which this index is available.

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS.**WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX CAPITAL CITIES.**

(Base: *Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.*)

1914, November	687 (Beginning of 1914-18 War)
1918, November	905 (End of 1914-18 War)
1920, November	1,166 (Post-War peak)
1922, November	975 (Post-War trough)
1929, Year	1,033 (Pre-Depression peak)
1933, Year	804 (Depression trough)
1939, September Quarter	916 (Pre-1939-45 War)
1943, March Quarter	1,123 (Pre-Price Stabilization)
1943, June Quarter	1,143 (1939-45 War peak)
1945, September Quarter	1,126 (End of 1939-45 War)
1948, September Quarter	1,311
1950, September Quarter	1,572
1952, September Quarter	2,238
1953, September Quarter	2,321
1954, September Quarter	2,321
1955, September Quarter .. ..	..(a)2,394
1956, September Quarter .. ..	..(a)2,511
1957, September Quarter .. ..	..(a)2,578

(a) Excludes price movement of potatoes and onions. See paragraph 6 on page 15.

The index rose by approximately 32 per cent. during the 1914-18 War and by a further 29 per cent. in the two post-war years (November, 1918 to November, 1920). From November, 1920 to November, 1922, there was a fall of 16 per cent., and the index remained relatively stable until the onset of the depression in 1929. During the four years of the depression 1929 to 1933 the index fell by 22 per cent., rising thereafter steadily until 1939 when it was nearly 14 per cent. above the level of 1933, and approximately at the level it had occupied at the date of the Armistice of 1918. Between the outbreak of war (September, 1939) and March, 1943 (pre-price stabilization), the index rose by approximately 23 per cent. to a level slightly below that reached at the height of the post-war boom in 1920. Compared with that for the March Quarter, 1943, the index number at the close of the war was practically unchanged.

Immediately after the outbreak of the war, price control was established by the Government under Regulations dated 28th September, 1939, and a national policy of price stabilization was applied as from 12th April, 1943, backed by more stringent price control and price subsidies. The retail price level, as measured by the index, remained relatively steady throughout 1944 and 1945 at the level of March, 1943. This stabilized level was approximately 23 per cent. above that of 1939 and 63 per cent. above the level prevailing at the beginning of the 1914-18 War. After the June Quarter, 1946, war-time controls, subsidies, etc., were progressively modified and by early 1949 had been virtually eliminated. In the latter part of 1950 export prices (especially for wool) rose very substantially and have remained relatively very high. In December, 1950, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration raised the basic wage by approximately 14 per cent. Concurrently, public works expenditure and private investment rose to very high levels.

This retail price index rose by 16 per cent. in the three years following the end of the 1939-45 War (i.e., to the September Quarter, 1948) and by 77 per cent. in the next five years to the September Quarter, 1953, and remained relatively stable at that level until the end of 1954. Since then the index (excluding recent price movement of potatoes and onions—see paragraph 6 on page 15) has risen each year and by the September Quarter, 1957 was 11.1 per cent higher than at the September Quarter, 1954. The index including potatoes and onions showed an increase of 10.9 per cent. over the same period. This level was approximately 181 per cent. above that of 1939.

An account of price control measures and of price stabilization in Australia was published in *Official Year Book* No. 37, pages 458-464, and No. 40, pages 279-280.

3. Tabular Statements of "C" Series Retail Price Index, Six Capital Cities, 1914 to 1957.—Information relating to the "C" Series Retail Price index numbers is published as follows:—

Monthly.—The *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* contains annual and quarterly index numbers to the latest available date.

Quarterly.—Statements are issued about three weeks after the end of each quarter relating to the "C" Series Retail Price Index for that quarter and immediately preceding quarters. The *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* contains annual and quarterly index numbers to the latest available date. This publication also contains certain average prices of items of food and groceries for each month of the latest available quarter.

Annual.—In addition to the information published in the annual Labour Report the *Official Year Book* contains a brief summary concerning the index.

The movement in the various groups of the index and in the index as a whole for each year for which it has been compiled is shown in the following table for the six capital cities combined:—

**"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX AND ITS "GROUP" INDEX NUMBERS^(a)
FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED.**

(Base of Each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000).

Period.	Food and Groceries. ^(b)		Rent (4 and 5 roomed Houses). ^(c)	Clothing.	Miscel- laneous.	Total "C" Series Index. ^(b)	
1914(d)	..	641	649	754	749	687	
1915(d)	..	842	659	792	786	782	
1916(d)	..	812	665	881	802	795	
1917(d)	..	836	685	992	882	847	
1918(d)	..	861	722	1,097	972	905	
1919(d)	..	1,026	768	1,238	1,036	1,022	
1920(d)	..	1,209	851	1,365	1,194	1,166	
1921(d)	..	950	877	1,246	1,010	1,013	
1922(d)	..	945	929	1,052	999	975	
1923	..	1,009	950	1,045	999	1,003	
1924	..	969	988	1,003	1,004	987	
1925	..	998	1,008	991	992	997	
1926	..	1,023	1,026	986	998	1,011	
1927	..	1,000	1,030	975	1,008	1,002	
1928	..	985	1,066	997	1,010	1,009	
1929	..	1,044	1,073	996	1,007	1,033	
1930	..	941	1,047	951	999	975	
1931	..	826	901	853	973	873	
1932	..	796	817	804	958	830	
1933	..	751	804	787	950	804	
1934	..	783	810	785	944	817	
1935	..	806	839	783	946	832	
1936	..	825	879	792	947	850	
1937	..	851	912	811	960	873	
1938	..	886	942	829	961	897	
1939	..	927	965	841	962	920	
1940	..	939	973	956	998	957	
1941	..	947	976	1,118	1,060	1,008	
1942	..	1,031	976	1,308	1,112	1,091	
1943	..	1,037	975	1,440	1,160	1,131	
1944	..	1,026	976	1,435	1,165	1,126	
1945	..	1,034	975	1,425	1,161	1,126	
1946	..	1,036	976	1,505	1,167	1,145	
1947	..	1,100	977	1,566	1,199	1,188	
1948	..	1,256	979	1,744	1,257	1,295	
1949	..	1,394	982	1,997	1,338	1,415	
1950	..	1,566	987	2,286	1,435	1,560	
1951	..	2,041	1,009	2,749	1,679	1,883	
1952	..	2,526	1,057	3,096	1,958	2,196	
1953	..	2,641	1,138	3,223	2,053	2,302	
1954	..	2,671	1,192	3,218	2,062	2,326	
1955	..	2,811	1,226	3,237	2,081	2,393	
1956	..	A 2,923	B 3,084	1,325	3,261	2,236	A 2,489 B 2,547
1957	..	2,973	2,971	1,380	3,357	2,372	2,567 2,565

For footnotes see next page.

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX AND ITS "GROUP" INDEX NUMBERS(a)
FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED—continued.

(Base of Each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	Food and Groceries. (b)		Rent (4 and 5 roomed Houses). (c)	Clothing.	Miscel- laneous.	Total " C " Series Index.(b)	
Quarter—							
1939—September. .	920		967	836	961	916	
1945—September. .	1,040		975	1,415	1,161	1,126	
1948—March ..	1,190		978	1,661	1,231	1,248	
June ..	1,229		979	1,720	1,248	1,278	
September. .	1,274		979	1,778	1,271	1,311	
December. .	1,330		980	1,818	1,277	1,341	
1949—March ..	1,361		981	1,849	1,304	1,364	
June ..	1,388		981	1,963	1,325	1,403	
September. .	1,396		982	2,043	1,345	1,428	
December. .	1,429		983	2,132	1,378	1,466	
1950—March ..	1,473		984	2,156	1,402	1,491	
June ..	1,520		986	2,261	1,413	1,534	
September. .	1,582		987	2,316	1,432	1,572	
December. .	1,689		989	2,410	1,492	1,643	
1951—March ..	1,790		1,004	2,487	1,564	1,713	
June ..	1,925		1,007	2,746	1,641	1,833	
September. .	2,136		1,010	2,833	1,715	1,943	
December. .	2,311		1,013	2,930	1,794	2,042	
1952—March ..	2,404		1,023	2,992	1,828	2,098	
June ..	2,567		1,041	3,099	1,949	2,206	
September. .	2,592		1,070	3,115	2,018	2,238	
December. .	2,542		1,094	3,177	2,035	2,243	
1953—March ..	2,572		1,122	3,200	2,048	2,268	
June ..	2,605		1,136	3,245	2,051	2,293	
September. .	2,686		1,144	3,228	2,054	2,321	
December. .	2,702		1,151	3,217	2,060	2,327	
1954—March ..	2,683		1,162	3,228	2,070	2,327	
June ..	2,670		1,191	3,212	2,061	2,324	
September. .	2,654		1,205	3,210	2,058	2,321	
December. .	2,677		1,209	3,222	2,060	2,333	
1955—March ..	2,730		1,213	3,218	2,046	2,349	
June ..	2,770		1,222	3,240	2,070	2,375	
	A	B				A	B
1955—September. .	2,810	2,854	1,232	3,243	2,081	2,394	2,411
December. .	2,831	2,891	1,238	3,248	2,128	2,413	2,435
1956—March ..	2,851	2,926	1,310	3,243	2,137	2,437	2,465
June ..	2,922	3,054	1,320	3,248	2,212	2,480	2,528
September. .	2,966	3,244	1,330	3,260	2,273	2,511	2,612
December. .	2,954	3,111	1,339	3,292	2,320	2,526	2,583
1957—March ..	2,973	2,982	1,357	3,323	2,336	2,547	2,550
June ..	2,977	2,997	1,373	3,354	2,368	2,565	2,572
September. .	2,987	2,975	1,389	3,365	2,387	2,578	2,574
December. .	2,955	2,928	1,400	3,386	2,397	2,576	2,565

(a) "Group" index numbers in the above table cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of Food and Groceries, Rent, Clothing or Miscellaneous requirements, since each "Group" has its own Base = 1,000, namely, the weighted average cost for the six capital cities as a whole during the five-year period 1923-27. (b) Indexes in Columns "A" exclude, and those in Columns "B" include, the price movement of potatoes and onions. See paragraph 6 on page 15. (c) Rent. The rent index numbers shown in the tables in this Report measure the proportionate rise and fall in the average weekly rentals paid for houses of four and five rooms, taking corresponding houses throughout. They are "price" indexes in the strict sense, i.e., they are designed to measure only the "price" element in rent fluctuations. Rentals of new tenanted houses completed since the end of the war are not taken into account. (d) November.

A graph showing "C" Series retail price index numbers appears on page 65.

§ 6. International Comparisons: Retail Price Index Numbers.

A.—The following table shows the increases in retail prices in Australia and certain other countries since the quarter during which the 1939–45 War commenced. In this section, the index used for Australia is of necessity the "C" Series Retail Price Index. The figures show fluctuations in prices in each country, and do not measure relative price levels as between the various countries included.

RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS.

(FOOD, RENT, CLOTHING, MISCELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.)

(Base: September Quarter, 1939 = 100.)

Period.	Australia.(a)		United Kingdom.	Canada.	New Zealand.	Union of South Africa.(b)	United States of America.
1939—							
September Quarter	100		100	100	100	100	100
1940—Year ..	105		119	105	104	104	100
1941— " ..	110		104	111	108	109	105
1942— " ..	119		129	116	111	118	116
1943— " ..	124		128	117	114	126	125
1944— " ..	123		129	118	116	130	123
1945— " ..	123		131	119	118	133	127
1946— " ..	125		131	123	119	135	138
1947— " ..	130		(c)102	134	122	141	158
1948— " ..	141		108	154	132	149	170
1949— " ..	155		111	(d)160	(e)134	154	168
1950— " ..	170		114	165	142	160	171
1951— " ..	206		124	183	157	172	185
1952— " ..	240		136	186	170	187	189
1953— " ..	251		140	184	177	194	190
1954— " ..	254		143	185	186	197	191
1955— " ..	261		149	185	(d)190	204	191
	A	B					
1956— " ..	272	278	(d)157	188	197	207	193
1955—March Qtr. ..	256		146	185	189	202	190
June " ..	259		148	185	190	203	190
	A	B					
Sept. " ..	261	263	150	185	191	204	191
Dec. " ..	263	266	153	186	191	205	191
1956—March Qtr. ..	266	269	154	186	193	205	190
June " ..	271	276	157	186	195	207	192
Sept. " ..	274	285	157	189	199	208	194
Dec. " ..	276	282	158	191	199	208	196
1957—March Qtr. ..	278	278	160	192	198	210	197
June " ..	280	281	161	193	201	211	199

(a) Indexes in Column "A" exclude, and those in Column "B" include, the price movement of potatoes and onions. See paragraph 6 on page 15. (b) Food, Rent and Miscellaneous Expenditure. (c) New Series (Base: 17th June, 1947 = 100); cannot be linked to former series. (d) New series linked to former series. (e) Consumers' (Retail) Price Index from March quarter, 1949, onwards. Index numbers for earlier periods (shown for purposes of comparison) are obtained by linking the movement in the Retail Price Index (Base: 1926–30) to the new index.

B.—The following tables give index numbers of retail prices for various countries. Except where otherwise noted, the average prices for the year 1953 are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken from the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations, show fluctuations in prices in each country, and do not measure relative price levels as between the various countries included.

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL PRICES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

(Source: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.)

(Base: 1953 = 100.)

FOOD, CLOTHING, RENT AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Period.	ARGENTINA (Buenos Aires).	AUSTRALIA.	BELGIUM.(a)	BRAZIL (Sao Paulo).	CANADA.	DENMARK.(b)	FRANCE (Paris).	GERMANY (Western).	INDIA.	IRELAND.(c)	ITALY.
1950	51	68	91	62	89	87	77	93	95	81	86
1951	69	82	99	67	98	96	91	100	98	87	94
1952	96	96	100	82	101	100	101	102	97	95	98
1953	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1954	104	101	101	118	101	101	100	100	95	100	103
1955	117	104	101	142	101	106	101	102	90	103	106
1956	132	110	104	173	102	111	103	105	99	107	111
1956—											
March Qtr. ..	122	107	102	159	101	109	103	104	93	106	109
June	131	109	103	166	101	110	103	105	98	107	111
Sept. " ..	135	113	104	176	103	111	102	105	101	108	111
Dec. " ..	140	112	105	189	104	112	103	106	102	107	111
1957—											
March Qtr. ..	146	112	106	197	104	114	103	106	101	108	112
June	159	113	106	204	105	114	103	106	103	111	112

Period.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.	NEW ZEALAND.	NORWAY.	PAKISTAN (Karachi).	PHILIPPINES (Manila).	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.(c)	UNITED KINGDOM.	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
1950	77	91	80	78	85	102	79	94	83	81	90
1951	89	99	89	90	88	111	92	98	89	89	97
1952	94	100	96	98	90	104	99	101	97	97	99
1953	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1954	106	104	105	104	98	99	101	101	102	102	100
1955	105	106	107	105	94	98	104	102	105	106	100
1956	106	108	111	109	97	100	109	103	107	112	102
1956—											
March Qtr. ..	105	107	109	106	96	98	107	102	106	110	100
June	106	108	110	110	96	99	109	103	107	112	101
Sept. " ..	106	109	112	111	99	101	109	104	107	112	102
Dec. " ..	107	109	112	110	99	102	110	104	108	113	103
1957—											
March Qtr. ..	109	110	112	111	102	101	113	104	108	114	104
June	110	111	113	113	105	99	113	105	109	115	105

(a) Rent is not included. (b) Including direct taxes. (c) Base: August, 1953 = 100.
(d) July–December. (e) Europeans only. Including direct taxes.

NOTE.—Symbol — on each side of an index number (e.g., -95-) indicates that two series have been linked at that period. Symbol — between two index numbers indicates that it is not possible to link two series (change in scope, etc.) and therefore the index numbers are not comparable with each other even though they are shown on the same base period.

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL PRICES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES—*continued.*

(Base: 1953 = 100.)

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

Period.	ARGENTINA (Buenos Aires).	AUSTRALIA.	BELGIUM.	BRAZIL (Sao Paulo).	CANADA.	DENMARK.	FRANCE (Paris).	GERMANY (Western).	INDIA.	INDONESIA (Djakarta).	IRELAND.(a)
1950	49	59	90	55	91	85	80	89	93	53	78
1951	67	-76-	96	-57-	104	94	93	97	96	89	83
1952	97	95	99	74	104	100	102	102	94	94	92
1953	100	100	-100-	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	-100-
1954	99	101	103	119	100	104	98	102	93	106	100
1955	110	105	102	142	100	111	99	104	85	141	104
1956	125	113	104	175	101	116	101	106	96	161	105
1956—											
March Qtr. ..	116	108	103	164	98	116	101	106	88	173	106
June " ..	125	112	104	166	98	117	101	107	96	156	106
Sept. " ..	127	117	104	179	103	114	100	106	100	155	105
Dec. " ..	135	114	105	192	104	115	100	107	101	161	102
1957—											
March Qtr. ..	142	111	106	196	104	116	100	107	99	156	102
June " ..	158	112	106	195	104	110	99	107	101	158	106

Period.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS.	NEW ZEALAND.	NORWAY.	PAKISTAN (Karachi).	PHILIPPINES (Manila).	SWEDEN.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.(c)	UNITED KINGDOM.(d)	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
1950	88	79	89	74	74	84	103	74	76	113	90
1951	94	-91-	96	86	87	89	111	87	81	126	100
1952	98	94	99	94	99	93	106	98	95	95	102
1953	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	-100-
1954	103	108	104	105	108	98	99	100	101	103	100
1955	106	105	106	-108-	108	95	98	105	104	110	98
1956	110	104	109	114	113	100	101	113	106	102	99
1956—											
March Qtr. ..	109	103	107	109	108	96	98	111	105	101	97
June " ..	111	104	109	112	116	97	99	114	107	104	98
Sept. " ..	111	102	111	118	116	104	103	113	106	101	101
Dec. " ..	110	104	110	117	112	102	104	112	107	102	100
1957—											
March Qtr. ..	110	107	111	110	113	107	100	114	108	103	100
June " ..	109	108	113	114	115	111	99	114	109	105	102

(a) Base: August, 1953 = 100. (b) July–December. (c) Europeans only. (d) Prior to 1952, base: 1948 = 100; beginning 1956, base: January, 1956 = 100.

NOTE.—Symbol — on each side of an index number (e.g., -95-) indicates that two series have been linked at that period. Symbol — between two index numbers indicates that it is not possible to link two series (change in scope, etc.) and therefore the index numbers are not comparable with each other even though they are shown on the same base period.

CHAPTER II.—WHOLESALE PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. General.

Two indexes of wholesale prices are compiled by the Bureau. These are: (i) The Melbourne Wholesale Price Index; and (ii) The Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index. Particulars of the Melbourne Wholesale Price Index, which is now obsolescent, are given in § 3 commencing on page 27 below.

After reviewing the list of items and weighting of this index the 1930 Conference of Statisticians resolved that a new index of Wholesale Prices of Basic Materials and Foodstuffs should be compiled. This index extends back to the year 1928 and is compiled monthly. This Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index is one of a series of wholesale price indexes designed for special purposes.

§ 2. Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

1. **Price Quotations.**—The prices used in the index have in the main been obtained directly from manufacturers and merchants, and, with a few important exceptions, from Melbourne sources. Apart from locally-produced building materials and one or two minor commodities, however, the price movements may be taken as representative of variations in wholesale prices of basic materials in most Australian markets.

Commodities in the index are priced in their primary or basic form wherever possible and in respect of imported materials as nearly as may be at the point where they first make effective impact on the local price structure. Thus the price of imported goods is not taken at the time of import, but rather on an ex-bond (or into factory) basis.

Broadly, where home-consumption prices exist for local products, they have been used in this index. During the year 1950–51 wool for local manufacture was subsidized. The home-consumption price for wool was used to calculate the index numbers shown in the table on page 27.

2. **Commodities and Grouping.**—For purposes of this index “basic” materials (as opposed to certain of the foodstuffs) are commodities in the primary or basic forms in which they first enter into productive processes carried out in Australia. The list of items is divided into seven main groups, each group being sub-divided into goods which are mainly imported, and goods which are mainly home-produced. A full list of these commodities is set out below, showing the quantity-multipliers (weights) for each commodity. The percentage of the total aggregate value in 1956 contributed by each group is also shown.

3. **Method of Construction.**—The index is constructed on the simple aggregative fixed-weights formula. The weights (quantity-multipliers) are based on estimates of the average annual consumption of the commodities in Australia during the period 1928–29 to 1934–35 inclusive. Changes in usage, changes of category as between “imported” and “home-produced” for some commodities, and changes in the industrial structure have affected the validity of some of the weights in the index.

During 1956, supplies and prices of potatoes and onions fluctuated violently upwards and downwards between abnormally wide limits. These fluctuations were so great as to dominate the movement of the sections of the index in which these items were included, namely, “Foodstuffs and Tobacco”, “Goods Principally Home Produced” and “Total All Groups”. In the circumstances of the case, neither seasonal adjustment nor conversion of the index to a “changing weights” formula could be applied to eliminate these transient

fluctuations. Accordingly, in order to provide a representative measure of general trend in wholesale prices, the index was reconstructed as from July, 1936 by omitting potatoes and onions.

Consideration is being given to the enlargement of the index to cover additional groups and to revision of the weighting pattern of the index.

WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX.

LIST OF COMMODITIES, UNITS OF MEASUREMENT AND QUANTITY-MULTIPLIERS.

Commodity.	Unit.	Quantity-multiplier. (Weight.)	Commodity.	Unit.	Quantity-multiplier. (Weight.)
Metals and Coal—			Rubber and Hides—		
Principally Imported—			Principally Imported—		
Aluminium ..	ton	985	Rubber, crude ..	lb.	24,214,400
Principally Home-produced—			Principally Home-produced—		
Iron and steel ..	ton	637,000	Calf skins ..	lb.	4,455,000
Briquettes ..	ton	243,000	Cattle hides ..	lb.	57,246,000
Copper, wire bars ..	ton	7,000	Tanning bark ..	ton	23,000
Coal ..	ton	9,300,000			
Lead, soft pig ..	ton	10,400	Building Materials—		
Tin, ingots ..	ton	1,250	Principally Imported—		
Zinc, ingots ..	ton	14,800	Timber, softwoods	1,000 sup. ft.	346,500
			Turpentine ..	gallon	458,000
Oils, Fats and Waxes—			Principally Home-produced—		
Principally Imported—			Bricks ..	1,000	372,000
Coconut oil ..	ton	6,500	Cement ..	ton	479,000
Fuel oil ..	ton	170,000	Drain-pipes ..	foot	7,270,000
Linseed oil ..	gallon	2,250,000	Glass, window ..	100	82,370
Lubricating oil ..	gallon	3,960,000		sq. ft.	
Kerosene, power ..	gallon	21,000,000	Lime ..	ton	51,144
Petrol ..	gallon	218,000,000	Plaster ..	ton	53,000
Principally Home-produced—			Timber, hardwoods	100	2,575,000
Beeswax ..	lb.	169,112	White lead ..	cwt.	60,000
Tallow ..	ton	26,000	Whiting ..	cwt.	274,000
Textiles—			Foodstuffs and Tobacco(a)—		
Principally Imported—			Principally Imported—		
Hemp ..	ton	5,575	Tapioca ..	cwt.	754,860
Kapok ..	lb.	6,160,000	Cocoa, raw ..	cwt.	104,460
Jute fibre ..	ton	874	Coffee ..	lb.	3,642,000
Phormium tenax ..	ton	2,275	Tea ..	lb.	48,954,520
Silk, raw ..	lb.	455,900	Mustard ..	doz. lb.	49,340
Principally Home-produced—			Herrings ..	doz. lb.	289,760
Cotton, raw ..	lb.	15,900,000	Sild ..	doz.	847,560
Wool, greasy ..	lb.	50,200,000		4-oz. tins	
			Tobacco, leaf ..	lb.	18,321,340
Chemicals—			Principally Home-produced—		
Principally Imported—			Barley ..	bushel	5,185,260
Ammonium sulphate	ton	23,830	Maize ..	bushel	330,640
Potash, muriate ..	ton	4,055	Oats ..	bushel	15,713,240
Potash, sulphate ..	ton	2,025	Rice ..	cwt.	339,246
Soda ash ..	ton	21,400	Wheat ..	bushel	41,880,980
Soda, nitrate ..	ton	1,100	Peas ..	bushel	675,980
Soda, nitrate—			Sugar ..	ton	352,682
Chilean ..	ton	3,600	Beef ..	100 lb.	7,352,520
Sulphur ..	ton	95,500	Lamb ..	lb.	87,245,740
Principally Home-produced—			Mutton ..	lb.	458,081,320
Arsenic ..	ton	1,531	Pork ..	lb.	49,923,380
Blood and bone ..	ton	34,431	Butter fat ..	lb.	204,156,640
Methylated spirits ..	gallon	2,374,000	Lard ..	lb.	1,497,840
Soda crystals ..	ton	4,986	Milk ..	gallon	167,838,800
Superphosphate ..	ton	704,144	Currants ..	lb.	10,391,520
Sulphuric acid ..	ton	226,450	Sultanas ..	lb.	18,893,700
			Grapes ..	ton	98,668

(a) Includes weights transferred from deleted articles.

The percentage of the total aggregate value in 1956 contributed by each group was as follows:—Metals and coal, 18.37 per cent.; oils, fats and waxes, 8.95; textiles, 3.69; chemicals, 3.95; rubber and hides, 1.88; building materials, 11.14; foodstuffs and tobacco, 52.02. Goods principally imported comprised 26.29 per cent. of the total aggregate in 1956 and goods principally home-produced, 73.71 per cent.

4. **Index Numbers.**—Index numbers for each group of commodities and for all groups combined for the index of wholesale prices of basic materials and foodstuffs are given in the following table. Current index numbers, on the base: Average of three years ended June, 1939 = 100, are published in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*.

WHOLESALE PRICE (BASIC MATERIALS AND FOODSTUFFS) INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base of each Group: Year 1928 = 100.)

Period.	Basic Materials.							Food-stuffs and Tobacco. (a)	Basic Materials and Foodstuffs.		
	Metals and Coal.	Oils, Fats and Waxes.	Textiles.	Chemicals.	Rubber and Hides.	Building Materials.	Total.		Goods principally Imported. (b)	Goods principally Home-produced. (a)	All Groups. (a)
1928	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1929	100	102	83	98	77	98	98	107	101	103	103
1930	95	108	61	95	55	100	93	95	105	92	95
1931	89	109	57	98	58	101	92	81	111	79	87
1932	83	107	54	98	53	98	88	79	108	76	84
1933	82	88	62	95	56	100	83	78	101	75	81
1934	79	82	66	89	60	98	80	81	99	75	81
1935	74	88	62	82	59	97	79	85	103	76	83
1936	72	91	76	82	72	99	82	90	105	81	86
1937	79	95	87	82	89	110	91	95	113	86	92
1938	80	95	61	83	66	104	88	96	109	85	91
1939	81	97	65	84	76	105	90	92	111	83	90
1940	84	123	78	97	93	127	104	99	134	90	100
1941	88	134	82	106	98	137	112	105	156	91	107
1942	97	151	93	116	104	154	125	116	180	99	119
1943	103	160	110	118	106	181	135	121	199	102	126
1944	103	160	108	118	106	183	135	123	200	104	127
1945	103	153	108	117	106	184	133	127	198	106	129
1946	102	142	119	116	104	187	131	129	194	108	129
1947	107	142	165	116	94	194	137	137	202	114	136
1948	129	159	234	127	100	204	157	156	217	135	155
1949	160	166	254	138	96	213	175	172	225	154	172
1950	179	179	382	179	155	258	208	200	263	182	202
1951	235	196	475	229	248	327	261	242	299	232	248
1952	299	216	408	277	193	432	304	272	325	272	285
1953	307	217	467	279	154	394	301	286	307	285	291
1954	305	204	387	260	154	380	290	293	296	286	288
1955	314	203	341	259	228	411	298	304	312	294	298
1956	322	219	346	272	240	466	316	309	332	302	309
1957	317	227	363	286	221	486	321	308	339	302	311
1957—											
January	324	227	383	283	232	490	326	304	347	300	311
February .. .	322	230	390	283	225	490	327	307	349	302	313
March	320	230	382	283	224	490	325	307	345	302	313
April	320	230	393	283	219	490	326	307	343	303	313
May	317	230	394	283	219	490	325	301	341	299	309
June	316	226	379	284	218	490	322	311	337	305	313
July	314	226	377	291	214	490	322	315	334	309	315
August	316	226	355	291	214	490	321	321	335	312	318
September ..	316	226	352	291	215	479	319	317	332	309	315
October	313	226	326	291	223	480	317	305	334	299	307
November .. .	313	226	319	285	224	479	315	298	337	292	303
December .. .	312	223	301	285	222	479	313	302	334	295	304

(a) During 1956 these indexes were reconstructed from July, 1936 by excluding potatoes and onions. See para. 3 on page 25. (b) Represents only such imported commodities as are included in the Wholesale Price Index and does not measure changes in price of all imports.

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns, but are not directly comparable horizontally.

§ 3. Melbourne Wholesale Price Index.

1. **General.**—An index of Melbourne wholesale prices was first computed in 1912. It relates chiefly to basic materials and foods weighted in accordance with consumption in the years immediately preceding that date. Neither the list of items nor the weighting has been varied. Consequently, the index is outmoded for current use and is a measure of variations in wholesale prices based on the weighting originally determined. It has some historic significance as a measure of changes in the prices of its component items combined in the

proportions in which they were in common use about the year 1910. It is now published only on an annual basis and is used mainly as an approximate indication of long-term trends since the year 1861, for which it was first compiled. A description of the index and a list of the commodities included in it were published in Labour Report No. 38, 1949, pages 43–45.

2. Index Numbers—1861 to 1953 (1911 base).—Index numbers for each group of commodities, as well as for all groups combined, are shown in the following table:—

MELBOURNE WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base of each Group: Year 1911 = 1,000.)

Year.	Metals and Coal.	Wool, Cotton, Leather, etc.	Agricultural Produce, etc.	Dairy Produce.	Groceries.	Meat.	Building Materials.	Chemicals.	All Groups.
1861	..	1,438	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	1,538
1871	..	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,229
1881	..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587
1891	..	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194
1901	..	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	974
1902	..	1,007	756	1,192	1,215	945	1,447	837	881
1903	..	923	834	1,209	1,059	936	1,443	875	921
1904	..	821	885	754	876	916	1,427	845	875
1905	..	772	850	894	980	942	1,209	809	859
1906	..	882	978	916	972	923	1,110	896	864
1907	..	1,037	1,017	973	1,020	948	1,294	968	961
1908	..	1,033	901	1,312	1,198	968	1,335	935	891
1909	..	1,014	907	1,000	1,119	978	1,088	911	815
1910	..	1,004	1,052	969	1,100	999	1,008	996	898
1911	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912	..	1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978
1913	..	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995
1914	..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253
1915	..	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528
1916	..	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760
1917	..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171
1918	..	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225
1919	..	2,121	2,363	1,987	1,651	1,514	2,342	2,852	2,896
1920	..	2,302	2,625	2,460	2,213	1,920	3,279	3,226	2,834
1921	..	2,173	1,361	1,767	2,000	1,977	2,158	2,733	2,303
1922	..	1,941	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965
1923	..	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,840	1,746	2,579	2,024	1,933
1924	..	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,814	1,806
1925	..	1,851	1,966	1,796	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790
1926	..	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,730	1,931	1,664	1,816
1927	..	1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,623	1,866
1928	..	1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	1,744	1,923
1929	..	1,912	1,555	1,793	1,854	1,689	2,245	1,755	1,943
1930	..	1,867	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,024	1,875	1,982
1931	..	1,826	1,040	1,121	1,398	1,794	1,512	2,025	2,166
1932	..	1,736	998	1,230	1,304	1,766	1,351	2,043	2,127
1933	..	1,713	1,118	1,175	1,194	1,714	1,485	2,061	2,105
1934	..	1,660	1,261	1,288	1,274	1,735	1,540	2,015	2,017
1935	..	1,602	1,217	1,344	1,325	1,729	1,508	1,964	1,996
1936	..	1,566	1,330	1,480	1,351	1,731	1,684	1,969	1,997
1937	..	1,772	1,406	1,604	1,451	1,750	1,678	2,430	2,006
1938	..	1,746	1,051	1,789	1,549	1,747	1,871	2,238	2,059
1939	..	1,758	1,101	1,820	1,557	1,752	1,710	2,220	2,075
1940	..	1,854	1,361	1,567	1,567	1,784	1,882	2,890	2,298
1941	..	1,960	1,402	1,721	1,554	1,883	1,776	3,138	2,527
1942	..	2,146	1,507	1,900	1,665	1,938	2,312	3,409	2,437
1943	..	2,272	1,945	1,964	1,716	1,939	2,366	3,764	2,442
1944	..	2,278	1,967	2,052	1,721	1,949	2,470	3,768	2,442
1945	..	2,270	1,960	2,259	1,726	1,967	2,560	3,770	2,228
1946	..	2,262	2,062	1,951	1,722	1,977	2,589	3,772	2,614
1947	..	2,390	2,690	2,019	1,763	2,174	2,748	3,800	2,843
1948	..	2,829	3,619	2,383	2,104	2,435	2,976	4,631	3,180
1949	..	3,502	3,966	2,876	2,309	2,558	3,356	4,611	3,221
1950	..	3,902	5,464	3,155	2,459	2,829	4,616	(a) 5,567	3,263
1951	..	5,080	7,943	4,512	2,930	2,850	6,438	(a) 7,074	3,294
1952	..	6,481	7,365	5,038	4,024	3,455	6,289	(a) 9,338	3,723
1953	..	6,615	6,950	4,958	4,533	3,767	6,303	(a) 8,519	(b) 5,631

(a) The list of items and weighting of the original Building Materials group of this index are outmoded in respect of recent years. The movement shown here for this group between 1949 and 1953 has been calculated in accordance with the movement occurring in the Building Materials group of the Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Index. (b) The "All Groups" index numbers for the years 1954, 1955 and 1956 were 5,384, 5,548 and 5,916 respectively.

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns, but are not directly comparable horizontally.

§ 4. International Comparisons: Wholesale Price Index Numbers.

The following table gives index numbers of wholesale prices during the period 1950 to June, 1957 for Australia and other countries. Except where otherwise noted, the average prices in each country for the year 1953 are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken from the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* published by the Statistical Office of the United Nations, show fluctuations in prices in each country, and do not measure relative price levels as between the various countries included.

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

(Source: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.)
(Base: 1953 = 100.)

Period.	AUSTRALIA.	BELGIUM.	BRAZIL.	CANADA.	DENMARK.	FRANCE.	GERMANY (Western).	INDIA (d)	INDONESIA (Jakarta) (b)	IRELAND.
1950	69	93	66	96	86	78	85	101	72	82
1951	85	113	79	109	109	100	100	110	99	95
1952	98	107	87	102	107	105	103	97	94	100
1953	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	-100-	100	(c)100
1954	99	99	130	98	100	98	98	94	109	98
1955	102	101	147	99	103	98	101	87	145	101
1956	106	104	176	102	107	102	103	97	135	101
1956—										
March Qtr.	104	103	158	101	106	101	102	91	136	101
June „	107	103	170	102	108	102	102	96	132	102
Sept. „	108	103	183	103	108	102	102	100	134	101
Dec. „	107	105	192	103	108	103	104	102	138	101
1957—										
March Qtr.	108	106	200	103	109	104	105	101	142	104
June „	107	107	196	103	106	105	105	103	146	107

Period.	ITALY.	JAPAN (Tokyo).	NETHERLANDS.	NEW ZEALAND.	NORWAY.	PHILIPPINES (Manila).	SWEDEN.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.	UNITED KINGDOM (d)	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
1950	93	70	87	78	76	98	76	76	95	94
1951	106	97	107	91	94	110	100	86	133	104
1952	100	100	104	101	-101-	101	106	99	111	101
1953	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1954	101	99	101	99	102	95	100	101	98	100
1955	101	98	102	100	104	92	104	104	105	101
1956	102	102	104	104	109	96	109	105	107	104
1956—										
March Qtr.	103	99	104	101	106	92	109	105	106	102
June „	103	101	105	103	109	96	110	105	106	104
Sept. „	101	102	104	106	110	97	109	105	107	104
Dec. „	102	105	106	106	111	97	109	106	109	105
1957—										
March Qtr.	101	106	107	103	113	97	110	107	110	106
June „	99	106	107	106	113	97	109	106	109	106

(a) Base: April-December, 1953 = 100.
only.

(b) Imported goods.

(c) Home-produced goods

(d) Non-food industries only.

NOTE.—The symbol — on each side of an index number (e.g., -95-) indicates that two series have been linked at that period. The symbol — between two index numbers indicates that it is not possible to link two series (change in scope, etc.) and therefore the index numbers are not comparable with each other even though they are shown on the same base period.

CHAPTER III.—WAGES AND HOURS.

§ 1. Arbitration and Wages Boards Acts and Associated Legislation.

1. **General.**—Particulars regarding the operation of Commonwealth and State Acts for the regulation of wages, hours and conditions of labour were first compiled for the year 1913 and revised particulars have appeared annually in each issue of the Labour Report.

2. **Laws Regulating Industrial Matters.**—The Principal Acts in force regulating rates of wage, hours of labour, and working conditions generally in both Commonwealth and State jurisdictions at the end of 1956 are listed below:—

COMMONWEALTH.

Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904–1956.
 Defence Transition (Residual Provisions) Act 1952.
 Public Service Arbitration Act 1920–1956.
 Coal Industry Act 1946–1956.
 Stevedoring Industry Act 1949–1956.
 Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act 1949–1956.
 Navigation Act 1912–1956.

STATES.

New South Wales	..	Industrial Arbitration Act 1940–1956. Coal Industry Act 1946–1955.
Victoria	..	Labour and Industry Acts 1953–1956.
Queensland	..	Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts, 1932 to 1953.
South Australia	..	Industrial Code, 1920–1955.
Western Australia	..	Industrial Arbitration Act 1912–1952. Mining Act 1904–1952.
Tasmania	..	Wages Boards Act 1920–1951.

3. **Methods of Administration.**—(i) *Commonwealth*—(a) *Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act.*—Under placitum (xxxv) of section 51 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution, the Commonwealth Parliament is empowered to make laws with respect to “conciliation and arbitration for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes extending beyond the limits of any one State”. The Parliament has made such a law, namely, the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

The Conciliation and Arbitration Act was amended extensively in 1956 and the following is a brief description of the more important features of the Commonwealth arbitration machinery as now constituted (*see* para. 5 on page 36).

This Act defines “an industrial dispute” as “(a) a dispute (including a threatened, impending or probable dispute) as to industrial matters which extends beyond the limits of any one State; and (b) a situation which is likely to give rise to a dispute as to industrial matters which so extends; and includes (c) such a dispute in relation to employment in an industry carried on by, or under the control of, a State or an Authority of a State; (d) a dispute in relation to employment in an industry carried on by, or under the control of, the Commonwealth or an Authority of the Commonwealth, whether or not the dispute extends beyond the limits of any one State; and (e) a claim which an organization is entitled to submit to the Commission [*see* page 33] under section

eleven A of the *Public Service Arbitration Act* 1920-1956 or an application or matter which the Public Service Arbitrator has refrained from hearing, or from further hearing, or from determining under section fourteen A of that Act, whether or not there exists in relation to the claim, application or matter a dispute as to industrial matters which extends beyond the limits of any one State ”.

The main feature of the new arbitration machinery is the separation of judicial and arbitral functions, as follows:—The Commonwealth Industrial Court deals with judicial matters under the Act, while the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission handles the function of conciliation and arbitration.

(b) *The Commonwealth Industrial Court.*—The Commonwealth Industrial Court is composed of a Chief Judge and two other Judges and the Act provides that the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Industrial Court shall be exercised by not less than two Judges except in the following circumstances. A single Judge may exercise the jurisdiction of the Court with respect to a dismissal or injury of an employee on account of industrial action, interpretation of awards, appeals to the Court from an act or decision of the Registrar, questions concerning eligibility of membership of an organization, the adoption, alteration or enforcement of rules of an organization, disputes between an organization and its members and a prescribed matter of practice or procedure. A single Judge may refer a question of law for the opinion of the Court constituted by not less than two Judges. The Court is a Superior Court of Record with the same power to punish contempts of its power and authority as is possessed by the High Court in respect of contempts of the High Court. In general, decisions of the Industrial Court are final; however, an appeal lies to the High Court, but only when the latter grants leave to appeal. Provision is also made under the Act for the registration of associations of employees and employers. In matters involving disputed elections in organizations, the Court may direct the Registrar to make investigations, and if necessary order a new election.

Special provision is made under the Act concerning the right of audience before the Commonwealth Industrial Court. Briefly, except in proceedings which, in general, involve questions of law or offences against the Act, parties are able to elect whether to appear personally or to be represented by lawyers or officials. Even in proceedings involving questions of law, except appeals from other Courts to the Industrial Court, the parties may, if they wish and the Court grants leave, be represented by officials.

(c) *The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.*—The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission is composed of a President, not less than two Deputy Presidents, a Senior Commissioner, not less than five Commissioners and a number of Conciliators. The presidential members of the Commission must have been solicitors or barristers of the High Court or of the Supreme Court of a State of not less than five years standing or Judges of the previously existing Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission is empowered to prevent or settle industrial disputes by (a) effecting a reconciliation between the parties to industrial disputes; (b) preventing and settling industrial disputes by amicable agreement; and (c) preventing and settling, by conciliation or arbitration, industrial disputes not prevented or settled by amicable agreement. The Commission may exercise its power on its own motion or on the application of a party.

The President may assign a Commissioner to deal with industrial disputes relating to particular industries, or members of the Commission to deal with a particular industrial dispute. However, subject to the approval of the President, it is the duty of the Senior Commissioner to organize and allocate the work of the Commissioners and Conciliators.

When an industrial dispute occurs or is likely to occur, the Act provides that a Commissioner shall take steps for the prompt prevention or settlement of that dispute by conciliation, or, if in his opinion conciliation is unlikely to succeed or has failed, by arbitration. A Commissioner may arrange with the Senior Commissioner for a Conciliator to assist the parties to reach an amicable agreement. If the agreement is reached, a memorandum of its terms shall be made in writing, and may be certified by a Commissioner. A certified memorandum shall have the same effect as an award.

The Commission in Presidential Session, that is, the Commission constituted by at least three presidential members, and not otherwise, is empowered to deal with the making of awards, or the certifying of agreements, in so far as they concern standard hours, basic wages and long service leave.

Upon application by a party to an industrial dispute, a Commissioner shall decide, in consultation with the President, whether, in the public interest, the dispute should be dealt with by a Commission constituted of not less than three members nominated by the President. The President may direct the Commission to hear the dispute; however, after consideration, the Commission may refer the dispute back for determination to the Commissioner originally dealing with the dispute.

An appeal against the decision of a Commissioner shall be heard by not less than three members nominated by the President, of whom at least two are presidential members of the Commission. However, an appeal will not be heard unless the Commission considers it is a matter of public interest.

Provision is also made in the Act for a presidential member of the Commission to handle industrial matters in connexion with the Maritime Industries, Snowy Mountains Area and Stevedoring Industry, except in those matters where the Act requires that the Commission shall be constituted by more than one member.

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission also deals with disputes and industrial matters, interstate or intra-State, associated with undertakings or projects of the Commonwealth Government which have been declared by the Minister to be Commonwealth projects for the purposes of this Act. In effect, this places employees of Commonwealth projects, so declared, under the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Minister has the power to exempt certain persons or classes of persons working on the project from the jurisdiction of the Commission.

The Commission is empowered, under the Act, to make an award in relation to an industrial dispute where the Public Service Arbitrator has refrained from dealing with claims made by a Public Service employee organization or consents to the claims being presented to the Commission, though such an award may be inconsistent with a law of the Commonwealth relating to salaries, wages, rates of pay or terms or conditions of service of employees in the Public Service as defined by section three of the Public Service Arbitration Act 1920–1956, not being the Commonwealth Employees Compensation Act 1930–1954, the Commonwealth Employees' Furlough Act 1943–1953, the Superannuation Act 1922–1956 or any other prescribed Act.

The Act provides that where a State law, or an order, award, decision or determination of a State industrial authority is inconsistent with or deals with a matter dealt with in an award of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, the latter shall prevail, and the former, to the extent of the inconsistency or in relation to the matter dealt with, shall be invalid.

(d) *Coal Industry Tribunal*.—The Coal Industry Tribunal was established under the Commonwealth Coal Industry Act 1946 and the New South Wales Coal Industry Act 1946 to consider and determine interstate disputes, and in respect of New South Wales only, intra-State disputes between the Australian Coal and Shale Employees' Federation and employers in the coal-mining industry.

Special war-time bodies were created to deal with specific aspects of the coal industry, reference to which was made in earlier issues of the Labour Report (*see* No. 41, page 53). Under amending legislation passed jointly by the Commonwealth and New South Wales Parliaments in 1951 the Tribunal was vested with authority to deal with all interstate industrial disputes in the coal-mining industry, irrespective of the trade union involved, and, in the case of New South Wales, intra-State disputes also. The Tribunal consists of one person who may appoint two assessors nominated by the parties to advise him in matters relating to any dispute. Subsidiary authorities are the Local Coal Authorities and Mine Conciliation Committees, who may be appointed to assist in the prevention and settlement of certain disputes. An amendment to the Commonwealth Coal Industry Act passed in 1952 makes it obligatory for the Tribunal to use conciliation and arbitration to settle industrial disputes.

(e) *Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator*.—Wages, hours of labour and working conditions in the Commonwealth Public Service are regulated by the Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator, under powers conferred by the Public Service Arbitration Act 1920–1956. The system of arbitration commenced to operate in 1912, cases being heard by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration as part of the ordinary work of that Court. From 1920, however, the control was transferred to the Arbitrator, who is appointed by the Government for a term of seven years, and who need not necessarily have legal qualifications. In 1952 amending legislation made provision for reference of matters of general importance to the Full Court of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and also for appeals from decisions of the Arbitrator.

Amending legislation, assented to on 15th November, 1956, provided that an organization of employees in the Public Service may submit a claim to the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission with the consent of the Public Service Arbitrator or where the Arbitrator has, other than on the grounds of triviality, refrained from hearing or determining the claim. The amending legislation also provided that appeals from decisions of the Arbitrator may be made to the Commission.

(f) *Australian Capital Territory Industrial Board*.—The regulation of industrial matters in the Australian Capital Territory under a local Industrial Board commenced in the year 1922. An amending Ordinance gazetted on 19th May, 1949, however, abolished the Board and transferred its functions to authorities established by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. A separate Registry of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration is established in Canberra and a Commissioner assigned to the Australian Capital Territory.

The amendment to Commonwealth industrial legislation introduced in June, 1956 made little practical change in the day-to-day industrial administration of the Australian Capital Territory. In effect, the Conciliation Commissioner of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration became the Commissioner for the Australian Capital Territory under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. In addition, the Industrial Court and the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission replaced the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in those matters outside the jurisdiction of the Commissioner.

Details of the provisions relating to the Board during its period of jurisdiction may be found in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 37 (*see* No. 36, p. 51).

(ii) *States*—(a) *New South Wales*.—The controlling authority is the Industrial Commission of New South Wales, consisting of a President and five other Judges. Subsidiary tribunals are the Conciliation Commissioners, the Apprenticeship Commissioner, Conciliation Committees and Apprenticeship Councils constituted for particular industries. Each Conciliation Committee consists of a Conciliation Commissioner as Chairman and equal numbers of representatives of employers and employees. The Apprenticeship Commissioner and the members of the Conciliation Committee for an industry constitute the Apprenticeship Council for the industry. These subsidiary tribunals may make awards binding on industries, but an appeal to the Industrial Commission may be made against any award. Special Commissioners with conciliatory powers only may be appointed. Compulsory control commenced in 1901, after the earlier Acts of 1892 and 1899 providing for voluntary submission of matters in dispute had proved abortive.

(b) *Victoria*.—The authorities are separate Wages Boards for the occupations and industries covered, each consisting of a chairman and equal numbers of representatives of employers and employees, and a Court of Industrial Appeals, the latter presided over by a Judge of the County Court. The system was instituted in the State in 1896, and represented the first example in Australia of legal regulation of wage rates.

(c) *Queensland*.—The authority is the Industrial Court, consisting of a Judge of the Supreme Court and not more than four members appointed by the Governor in Council. Legal control was first instituted in 1907 with the passing of the Wages Board Act.

(d) *South Australia*.—The principal tribunal is the Industrial Court, composed of the President (a person eligible for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court) who may be joined by two assessors employed in the industry concerned; also Deputy Presidents may be appointed. There are also Industrial Boards, for the various industries, consisting of a chairman and equal numbers of representatives of employers and employees. Another tribunal provided for under the Industrial Code is the Board of Industry, composed of a President who shall be the President or a Deputy President of the Industrial Court and four Commissioners. Broadly speaking, the functions of these three tribunals are:—(i) the Industrial Court delivers awards concerning workers who do not come under the jurisdiction of the Industrial Boards and hears appeals from decisions of Industrial Boards; (ii) the determinations of the Industrial Boards apply to most industries in the metropolitan area; however, for employees of the Public Service, Railways and councils of a municipality or district, determinations of Industrial Boards apply to the whole of the State; (iii) the Board of Industry declares the “living wage”.

(e) *Western Australia*.—The system of control comprises an Arbitration Court, Industrial Boards, Conciliation Committees and a Conciliation Commissioner. Employers and employees are equally represented on both Boards and Committees. The Court consists of a Judge of the Supreme Court and two members. Commissioners may also be appointed by the Minister for the settlement of particular disputes. Legal control dates back to 1900.

Since 1949, legislation has provided for the appointment of a Western Australian Coal Industry Tribunal to settle intra-State disputes in the coal-mining industry in Western Australia. It was not, however, until April, 1952, that persons were appointed to the Tribunal. The Tribunal consists of a Chairman and four other members (two representatives each of employers and employees). Boards of reference may be appointed by the Tribunal and decisions of the Tribunal may be reviewed by the President of the Arbitration Court.

(f) *Tasmania*.—The authority consists of Wages Boards for separate industries, comprising a Chairman, appointed by the Governor, and equal numbers of representatives of employers and workers, appointed by the Minister administering the Act. The system was instituted in 1910.

4. Awards, Determinations, and Agreements in Force.—In each issue of the Labour Report from 1913-14 to 1947 (Reports Nos. 5-36) statistics were published of the number of awards, determinations made and industrial agreements filed, excluding variations, in each State and under Commonwealth legislation dealing with these matters. Statistics were also published, up to and including 1939, showing the number of awards, determinations and industrial agreements in force at the end of each year. These details are not now published because of the difficulty of obtaining precise data. One of the reasons for this decision is explained in the following paragraph.

It is difficult to establish the exact number of industrial awards and registered industrial agreements in force at the end of any period, because awards and determinations made by both State and Commonwealth tribunals generally continue in force, after the term of operation mentioned therein has expired, until rescinded or superseded by a subsequent order or award. Section 58 (2) of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that, after the expiration of the period specified, the award shall, unless the Court otherwise orders, continue in force until a new award has been made; provided that, where in pursuance of this sub-section an award has continued in force after the expiration of the period specified in the award, any award made by the Court for the settlement of a new industrial dispute between the parties may, if the Court so orders, be made retrospective to a date not earlier than the date upon which the Court first had cognizance of that dispute. In the Industrial Code of South Australia, Section 47 (2), and in legislation for other States, similar provisions are in force. All industrial agreements continue in force after the expiration of the term mentioned until rescinded or superseded by a subsequent agreement or order. The Tasmanian Wages Boards Act 1934 repealed Part IV. of the Principal Act providing for industrial agreements and all such agreements ceased to operate from the commencement of the Act unless an agreement existed in a trade to which no determination of a Board was applicable, in which case the agreement remained in force until its expiry or until a determination was made.

5. New Legislation and Special Reports.—Information concerning the main provisions of various Industrial Acts in force throughout Australia was given in earlier Reports, and brief reviews are furnished in each issue of the more

important aspects of new industrial legislation having special application to the terms of awards or determinations. The period January, 1955 to March, 1957 is covered in this issue.

(i) *Commonwealth*.—The Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904–1952 was amended by an Act, assented to on 30th June, 1956, which revised the structure of the Commonwealth arbitration machinery by completely separating the judicial and arbitral functions. The present structure and functions of the Commonwealth Industrial Authority have been described in § 3 of this chapter. Prior to this amendment to the Act the Commonwealth Industrial Authorities were the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Court and the Commonwealth Conciliation Commissioners. The functions of these bodies were described in Labour Report No. 43, p. 31.

The amending legislation mentioned in the paragraph above was introduced in an endeavour to expedite the arbitration process and was prompted to some extent by the implications of the High Court judgment in the Boilermakers' Case delivered on 2nd March, 1956. In this case, the High Court upheld a challenge by the Boilermakers' Society to the validity of sections 29 (1.) (b) and (c) and 29A of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904–1952, under which the Boilermakers' Society was required to observe a provision in an award which prohibits bans, limitations or restrictions on the performance of work in accordance with the award, was subsequently found guilty of contempt of the Arbitration Court for wilfully disobeying this order, and fined £500.

An appeal against the decision of the High Court was made to the Privy Council by the Commonwealth Government and others. This appeal raised important issues, not merely concerning conciliation and arbitration, in relation to the judicial power of the Commonwealth of Australia under the Constitution. The issues were related to the separation of judicial powers from legislative and executive powers. The issue in relation to the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act was whether it was permissible, under the Constitution, for Parliament to confer both arbitral and judicial powers on the one body of persons.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in its judgment of 19th March, 1957 dismissed the appeal of the Commonwealth Government against the decision of the High Court.

The Committee of Inquiry established by the Stevedoring Industry Act of 1954 submitted an Interim Report on the Stevedoring Industry to the Minister of Labour and National Service on 28th February, 1956. Subsequently, the Stevedoring Industry Act, assented to on 30th June, 1956, abolished the Stevedoring Industry Board and established the Australian Stevedoring Industry Authority. The Act of 1956 provided that the Stevedoring Industry Authority should consist of:—"a Chairman; a member experienced in industrial affairs by reason of having been an employer in any industry or having been otherwise associated with management in industry; and a member experienced in industrial affairs by reason of having been associated with trade union affairs". The functions of the new authority, which are to regulate and control the stevedoring industry generally, were made wider and more clearly defined by the amending legislation. The Act separated the administrative responsibilities of the Authority from the arbitral functions which are exercised by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. The Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Stevedoring Industry was made on 7th March, 1957.

(ii) *New South Wales*.—The Industrial Arbitration Act was amended, by an Act assented to on 12th April, 1955, to enable non-practising barristers and solicitors to be appointed to the Commission. This amendment also authorized

the inclusion of provisions relating to retirement allowances in awards and industrial agreements which cover employees of the Council of the City of Sydney, the Sydney County Council and the Electricity Commission of New South Wales.

A further amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act, assented to on 4th November, 1955, provided for the re-introduction of the system of quarterly adjustments to the basic wage into State awards. By this amendment the basic wage for adult males payable under State awards was increased to restore the basic wage to the amount which would have been payable if quarterly adjustments had continued after September, 1953. Statutory provision was made for future quarterly adjustments according to fluctuations in the Commonwealth Statistician's retail price index numbers for Sydney.

Long service leave benefits were extended to all workers in the State of New South Wales by an amendment of 5th November, 1955. Prior to this amendment the long service leave provisions of the Act applied only to workers under the jurisdiction of the New South Wales Industrial Commission.

The provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act which prevented the Industrial Commission and Conciliation Commissioners from making awards for the payment of wages or remuneration in excess of £40 a week and of annual salaries in excess of £2,000 per annum were deleted from the Act by an amendment proclaimed on 21st November, 1956.

(iii) *Victoria*.—An amendment to the Labour and Industry Act, assented to on 17th October, 1956, deleted the provision for the automatic adjustment of basic wages and directed Wages Boards in determining wage rates to take into consideration relevant awards of, or agreements certified by, the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

An appeal was made by a private employer to the Privy Council against a judgment of the High Court rejecting the contention that the provisions of the Factories and Shops (Long Service Leave) Act 1953 were invalid as the Act was inconsistent with a Law of the Commonwealth, namely, the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act and an award under that Act (the Metal Trades Award). However, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council dismissed the appeal in its decision delivered on 19th March, 1957.

(iv) *Queensland*.—The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts were amended, by an Act proclaimed on 24th November, 1955, to provide long service leave for all workers in Queensland. Previous legislation provided long service leave benefits for workers under the jurisdiction of the State Industrial Tribunal. This amendment also provided long service leave for seasonal workers in meat works and sugar mills and for other workers as these are proclaimed by an order of the Governor in Council.

(v) *South Australia*.—On 8th December, 1955 an amendment to the Industrial Code was assented to, which provided that the Industrial Boards may not make determinations for payment of wages or remuneration in excess of £25 a week. Prior to this amendment £20 a week was the maximum rate for which the Boards could make determinations. This amendment to the Industrial Code also provided that the Board may order that a determination shall come into force on any date the Board may consider equitable, provided that this date is not prior to the date on which the Board commenced to hear the matter in question.

(vi) *Western Australia*.—No amendments were made in 1955 or 1956 to either the Industrial Arbitration or Mining Acts.

(vii) *Tasmania*.—The Long Service Leave Act 1956 was assented to on 16th May, 1956. This Act provides for long service leave of 13 weeks after 20 years continuous employment with the same employer, and a further $6\frac{1}{2}$ weeks on completion of each additional 10 years service with the same employer. The Act also provides that an employee who has completed at least 15 years but less than 20 years continuous employment with the one employer and whose employment is terminated, either by the employer or himself (except on the grounds of negligence or wilful misconduct on the part of the employee), is to be paid an entitlement of one-eightieth of the period of his continuous employment at his ordinary rate of pay. Provision is also made in this Act for an employee, on mutual agreement with his employer, to elect to accept payment in lieu of the period of long service leave to which he is entitled. The Act also provides that the personal representative of a deceased worker who qualified for long service leave before his death shall be paid the full amount of the payment due to the worker at the date of his death.

(viii) *Australian Capital Territory*.—There was no special industrial legislation affecting only the Australian Capital Territory passed in 1955 or 1956.

§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour.

1. **General.**—The collection of data for nominal rates of wage payable in different callings and in occupations in various industries carried on in each State was first undertaken by this Bureau in the early part of the year 1913. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining reliable particulars of the numbers of apprentices, improvers and other juvenile workers to whom progressive rates of wage fixed according to increasing age or experience were payable from year to year, the inquiry was confined to the rates of wage payable to adult workers only, and was further limited generally to those industries in operation within the metropolitan area of each State. In order to make the inquiry comprehensive, however, certain industries were included which were not carried on in the capital cities, e.g., mining, shipping, agriculture and the pastoral industry. The particulars acquired were obtained primarily from awards, determinations and industrial agreements under Commonwealth and State Acts, and related to the minimum wage prescribed. In those cases where no award, determination or agreement was in force, the ruling union or predominant rate of wage was ascertained from employers and secretaries of trade unions. For convenience of comparison weekly rates of wage were adopted. In many instances, however, the wages were based on daily or hourly rates, since in many industries and occupations in which employment is casual or intermittent, wages are so fixed; hence the average weekly earnings in such occupations may fall short of the computed weekly rates. The information thus obtained referred to the weekly rate of wage in upwards of 400 specific occupations. Rates of wage were of course not available for each of these occupations in every State but the aggregate collection for the six States amounted to 1,569 male occupations or callings. These particulars furnished the necessary data for the computation of average rates of wage in various industrial groups* and in each State and Australia as a whole. The average rate of wage for each industrial group in each State was computed by taking the arithmetical average† of the rates of wage payable for all classified occupations within that group. A more detailed system of weighting could not be applied owing to the difficulty in the past of obtaining satisfactory data as to the number of persons engaged in each of the occupations for which rates of wage had been obtained. Though a considerable amount of information as to the number of persons engaged in

* The adopted classification of industries is shown in the Preface.
 † The sum of the weekly rates of wage divided by the number of occupations included.

† The sum of the weekly

different industries and occupations was available from subsequent Census results, it was found impracticable to bring the classification of these results into line with the detailed classification of occupations in the various industries as set out in the awards and determinations. For final results for each State and for each industrial group throughout the States, however, a careful system of weighting according to industrial groups was adopted. For example, in computing the result for any State in any period, the computed average wage rate in each industrial group was multiplied by a number (weight) representing the relative number of all male workers engaged in that group of industries in the particular State. The sum of the products thus obtained divided by the sum of the weights represented the average wage rate for that State for the particular period. The weights used for each industrial group in the computations of the average wage for male and female occupations were published in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 20, 1929.

The results thus ascertained for the year 1913 were published in Labour Report No. 2, pp. 28-43. In the early part of the year 1914, the scope of the inquiry was considerably extended, and particulars included of the weekly rates of wage in respect of 930 specific occupations. The aggregate collection for the six States amounted to 4,256 adult occupations (3,948 male and 308 female). The results obtained thereby to 30th April, 1914, were published in Labour Report No. 5, pp. 44-50. These results were further analysed, and the average number of working hours which constituted a full week's work in each occupation was ascertained and weighted in a manner similar to that for the rates of wage. This course was adopted in order to overcome the difficulty of making comparisons between States of the rates of wage in any specified occupation, since, in many instances, a different number of working hours constituted a full week's work in different States. By dividing the weighted average number of working hours into the weighted average weekly rate of wage a more satisfactory standard of comparison was ascertained. Results obtained from these computations were given for each industrial group for each State.

Since 30th April, 1914, the number of occupations included in comparative computations has been slightly reduced. When technical change or some other factor has led to the disappearance of the original occupation from an award, agreement or determination, the usual practice has been to substitute a similar occupation with a comparable rate of wage. In some cases, however, such a substitution could not be made and the slight drop in the total number of occupations included has resulted. The particulars of wages given in the Appendix (Sections III. and IV.) to this Report include all the more important occupations. These have been taken from awards or determinations made by industrial tribunals, or from agreements registered under Commonwealth or State Acts.

To supplement the results thus obtained, investigations were made regarding rates of wage in earlier years with a view to showing their general trend in each State and in the several industrial groups. The total number of occupations for which particulars were available back to 1891 was 652.

The particulars given in this chapter show variations in nominal wage rates from year to year in each State and in various industrial groups. Index numbers are also given showing variations in *real* wage rates in each State. The figures of nominal wages and hours of labour are in course of revision to meet changes in industrial structure. The amounts should not be regarded as actual current averages but as an index of changes expressed in money and hour terms.

A comparison of wage rates and hours of labour for certain occupations in Australia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand will be found in Section V. of the Appendix.

2. **Adult Male Weekly Wage Rates.**—(i) *States.* The following table shows the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult male workers at the dates specified for a full week's work in each State and Australia. Index numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia for the year 1911 as base (= 1,000):—

WEEKLY WAGE RATES(a): ADULT MALES, "ALL GROUPS".

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index Numbers of Wage Rates.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia.
No. of Occupations included.(b)	870	894	615	562	477	466	3,884

RATES OF WAGE.

	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
31st December, 1891	44	1	40	5	46	6	41	7	52	4	38	6	43	5
" " 1901	43	11	40	9	46	2	42	0	53	11	36	10	43	5
" " 1911	51	5	50	6	51	1	51	11	59	0	41	0	51	3
" " 1914	56	2	54	7	53	5	54	5	62	10	52	8	55	7
" " 1921	95	10	93	7	96	8	89	5	95	0	91	8	94	6
" " 1929	102	11	101	1	101	2	97	2	100	7	94	8	101	2
" " 1931	93	5	82	2	89	0	75	0	84	1	79	9	86	10
" " 1939	96	7	93	6	97	5	88	11	100	6	89	5	95	3
" " 1941	105	4	104	5	101	9	100	3	110	2	99	3	104	3
" " 1951	255	0	245	5	240	10	241	8	251	4	247	3	248	7
" " 1952	284	8	274	5	267	9	274	6	284	7	276	2	278	2
" " 1953	296	8	282	6	273	10	278	9	292	5	296	11	287	7
" " 1954	298	4	284	3	278	7	282	2	293	3	299	2	290	0
" " 1955	310	1	296	7	284	11	284	9	304	9	302	7	300	0
31st March, 1956(c)	312	6	299	5	286	0	284	10	306	0	306	6	302	1
30th June, 1956(c)	316	11	306	11	291	7	294	11	309	9	316	1	308	2
30th September, 1956(c) ..	321	5	310	10	297	2	295	2	313	6	317	2	312	1
31st December, 1956(c) ..	331	3	312	9	301	3	297	11	318	1	319	9	317	7

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia (51s. 3d.), 1911 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1891	861	789	908	811	1,022	751	848		
" " 1901	858	796	901	819	1,052	719	848		
" " 1911	1,003	985	997	1,013	1,152	799	1,000		
" " 1914	1,096	1,065	1,042	1,062	1,226	1,028	1,085		
" " 1921	1,869	1,826	1,886	1,745	1,853	1,788	1,844		
" " 1929	2,007	1,972	1,975	1,896	1,963	1,848	1,974		
" " 1931	1,823	1,603	1,737	1,463	1,641	1,556	1,694		
" " 1939	1,885	1,825	1,900	1,735	1,962	1,745	1,858		
" " 1941	2,056	2,037	1,985	1,957	2,149	1,937	2,034		
" " 1951	4,975	4,789	4,699	4,715	4,904	4,825	4,850		
" " 1952	5,555	5,354	5,224	5,356	5,553	5,388	5,428		
" " 1953	5,788	5,513	5,342	5,439	5,705	5,794	5,611		
" " 1954	5,820	5,547	5,435	5,506	5,722	5,837	5,658		
" " 1955	6,051	5,787	5,559	5,555	5,946	5,905	5,853		
31st March, 1956(c)	6,098	5,843	5,581	5,557	5,970	5,981	5,895		
30th June, 1956(c)	6,183	5,989	5,689	5,755	6,044	6,167	6,013		
30th September, 1956(c) ..	6,272	6,065	5,798	5,760	6,116	6,189	6,090		
31st December, 1956(c) ..	6,463	6,102	5,878	5,812	6,206	6,239	6,197		

(a) The figures of nominal wages and hours of labour are in course of revision to meet changes in industrial structure. The amounts shown should not be regarded as actual current averages but as an index of changes expressed in money and hour terms. (b) As at 31st December, 1956. (c) Partly estimated.

(ii) *Industrial Groups, Australia.*—The following table shows for Australia (a) the weighted average weekly rate of wage in each of the industrial groups, and (b) the weighted average wage for all groups combined, at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each industrial group with the average for all groups for the year 1911 as base (= 1,000).

WEEKLY WAGE RATES(a): ADULT MALES, INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding overtime) and Index Numbers of Wage Rates in each Industrial Group.

Date.	INDUSTRIAL GROUP.														
	I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	II. Engineering, etc.	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	V. Books, Printing, etc.	VI. Other Manufacturing.	VII. Building.	VIII. Mining, etc.	IX. Railways, etc.	X. Other Transport.	XI. Shipping, etc.(b)	XII. Pastoral, etc.(b)	XIII. Domestic, etc.(b)	XIV. Miscellaneous.	All Industrial Groups.
RATES OF WAGE.															
31st December, 1891 ..	s. d. 52 5	s. d. 47 8	s. d. 38 2	s. d. 36 8	s. d. 53 5	s. d. 46 4	s. d. 50 6	s. d. 58 1	s. d. 50 10	s. d. 39 6	s. d. 38 2	s. d. 34 10	s. d. 32 10	s. d. 39 7	s. d. 43 5
" " 1901 ..	52 3	48 5	44 7	36 3	51 0	46 5	53 10	54 8	52 4	40 9	38 5	32 1	30 8	38 10	43 5
" " 1911 ..	57 8	54 6	50 9	50 3	58 11	51 11	62 1	61 2	57 0	46 7	44 7	43 0	45 5	47 7	51 3
" " 1914 ..	59 6	57 9	55 8	53 0	63 10	56 0	65 5	65 2	59 8	52 8	49 10	49 5	47 11	54 0	55 7
" " 1921 ..	98 2	98 2	93 10	93 3	104 7	95 0	102 5	105 4	97 5	90 2	101 8	89 0	84 2	91 1	94 6
" " 1929 ..	104 10	103 6	100 10	99 6	119 1	102 2	113 0	110 7	105 2	96 9	107 0	95 6	92 6	96 8	101 2
" " 1931 ..	85 7	86 3	88 6	83 11	102 0	85 4	98 9	102 5	86 7	83 11	81 10	80 3	85 3	83 11	86 10
" " 1939 ..	100 1	99 3	96 9	93 2	114 3	95 8	106 5	109 1	96 6	92 10	98 6	84 0	89 11	92 10	95 3
" " 1941 ..	108 5	110 0	106 1	105 7	119 6	107 0	116 11	115 1	108 8	101 11	106 9	93 6	97 10	101 2	104 3
" " 1951 ..	238 8	237 1	239 3	242 10	274 5	238 10	259 0	249 2	238 0	233 2	271 11	279 1	224 8	232 0	248 7
" " 1952 ..	270 2	267 10	271 5	273 6	305 5	270 2	293 11	281 8	269 4	263 11	303 1	300 11	255 8	262 10	278 2
" " 1953 ..	276 11	274 2	279 5	278 10	313 11	276 10	301 3	288 2	278 3	270 3	308 9	319 8	262 5	270 1	287 7
" " 1954 ..	281 11	284 1	280 9	278 10	324 11	279 7	307 6	288 0	289 9	273 3	308 9	319 7	263 0	270 5	290 0
" " 1955 ..	295 11	288 8	290 4	283 4	332 2	288 9	323 1	300 4	301 11	281 3	310 0	326 8	273 6	282 10	300 0
31st March, 1956 ..	296 6	289 8	293 5	283 6	335 7	291 0	326 2	301 7	306 3	284 2	310 1	c328 4	275 0	285 8	c302 1
30th June, 1956 ..	302 11	297 0	299 10	293 1	342 3	298 6	332 7	307 6	310 4	289 2	320 3	c334 1	281 4	290 9	c308 2
30th September, 1956 ..	306 2	301 2	303 2	293 9	346 1	301 6	335 11	310 4	316 5	293 2	320 7	c338 8	284 9	295 7	c312 1
31st December, 1956 ..	309 4	303 5	307 3	294 2	348 9	304 1	340 0	313 9	322 1	298 3	324 9	c351 0	287 7	300 1	c317 7

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia (51s. 3d.), 1911 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1891 ..	1,023	931	745	716	1,043	904	986	1,134	992	772	745	680	641	773	848
" " 1901 ..	1,019	945	771	708	996	907	1,050	1,067	1,021	795	751	627	598	759	848
" " 1911 ..	1,125	1,064	991	981	1,149	1,013	1,213	1,194	1,113	910	871	839	887	929	1,000
" " 1914 ..	1,161	1,127	1,085	1,034	1,246	1,093	1,276	1,272	1,165	1,026	972	965	935	1,054	1,085
" " 1921 ..	1,916	1,915	1,832	1,819	2,040	1,854	1,999	2,056	1,901	1,760	1,984	1,736	1,642	1,778	1,844
" " 1929 ..	2,046	2,019	1,967	1,942	2,323	1,994	2,205	2,157	2,052	1,888	2,087	1,863	1,804	1,886	1,974
" " 1931 ..	1,669	1,683	1,727	1,638	1,991	1,664	1,926	1,999	1,690	1,638	1,596	1,566	1,663	1,637	1,694
" " 1939 ..	1,953	1,936	1,888	1,817	2,229	1,867	2,076	2,142	1,884	1,812	1,922	1,639	1,755	1,811	1,858
" " 1941 ..	2,116	2,147	2,071	2,060	2,332	2,088	2,282	2,245	2,121	1,989	2,082	1,825	1,908	1,974	2,034
" " 1951 ..	4,656	4,626	4,668	4,738	5,355	4,661	5,054	4,861	4,643	4,550	5,306	5,445	4,384	4,527	4,850
" " 1952 ..	5,272	5,226	5,296	5,337	5,959	5,272	5,735	5,495	5,256	5,150	5,914	5,871	4,989	5,128	5,428
" " 1953 ..	5,403	5,349	5,452	5,441	6,124	5,401	5,878	5,622	5,429	5,274	6,025	6,237	5,121	5,269	5,611
" " 1954 ..	5,501	5,542	5,478	5,441	6,340	5,455	6,000	5,620	5,654	5,332	6,025	6,236	5,132	5,276	5,658
" " 1955 ..	5,774	5,632	5,665	5,529	6,481	5,635	6,305	5,861	5,891	5,488	6,049	6,374	5,337	5,519	5,853
31st March, 1956 ..	5,786	5,652	5,725	5,531	6,548	5,679	6,364	5,884	5,976	5,544	6,051	c6,406	5,365	5,575	c5,895
30th June, 1956 ..	5,911	5,795	5,851	5,719	6,678	5,825	6,489	5,999	6,056	5,642	6,249	c6,519	5,490	5,673	c6,013
30th September, 1956 ..	5,974	5,876	5,916	5,731	6,752	5,883	6,555	6,055	6,174	5,720	6,256	c6,608	5,556	5,767	c6,090
31st December, 1956 ..	6,036	5,921	5,995	5,740	6,805	5,933	6,634	6,121	6,284	5,820	6,337	c6,849	5,611	5,855	c6,197

(a) See note (a) to table on page 40.

(b) Includes the value of keep, where supplied.

(c) Partly estimated.

3. **Adult Female Weekly Wage Rates.**—(i) *States.* The index numbers given in the preceding paragraphs for male adult workers were computed with the weighted average wage in 1911 as base (= 1,000). In the case of females, however, it has not been possible to secure information for years prior to 1914, and the index numbers are therefore computed with the weighted average rate of wage payable to adult female workers in Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

The following table shows the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult female workers for a full week's work in each State and Australia at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

WEEKLY WAGE RATES(a): ADULT FEMALES.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index Numbers of Wage Rates.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia.
No. of Occupations included.(b) ..	84	87	38	47	24	32	312

RATES OF WAGE.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
31st December, 1914	26	10	27	9	27	1	24	1	37	4	25	10	27	5
" " 1921	49	0	47	10	50	3	45	2	56	4	47	6	48	8
" " 1929	53	11	54	1	54	10	51	4	58	10	53	9	54	1
" " 1931	49	8	45	10	47	11	43	1	51	7	45	8	47	5
" " 1939	53	3	51	9	55	2	49	7	55	8	50	8	52	8
" " 1941	57	11	58	4	59	6	55	5	60	4	56	7	58	2
" " 1951	171	1	172	10	161	7	171	4	163	2	168	7	170	4
" " 1952	193	11	196	2	184	4	195	8	186	0	191	2	193	5
" " 1953	198	5	200	10	188	7	199	6	190	5	196	4	197	11
" " 1954	198	9	200	2	190	0	199	5	190	5	196	7	197	11
" " 1955	205	3	206	9	192	10	199	11	193	7	197	11	203	4
31st March, 1956	205	11	207	11	192	10	199	11	194	0	200	0	204	1
30th June, 1956	210	5	214	5	198	2	207	5	198	10	207	4	209	9
30th September, 1956	212	10	216	2	199	9	207	5	200	5	207	10	211	7
31st December, 1956	216	10	216	2	201	3	207	5	201	8	207	10	213	2

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia (27s. 2d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

	987	1,022	996	885	1,373	950	1,008
31st December, 1914	987	1,022	996	885	1,373	950	1,008
" " 1921	1,803	1,761	1,849	1,661	2,074	1,749	1,790
" " 1929	1,983	1,990	2,020	1,888	2,165	1,978	1,990
" " 1931	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746
" " 1939	1,960	1,906	2,031	1,826	2,049	1,866	1,938
" " 1941	2,133	2,148	2,191	2,038	2,220	2,082	2,141
" " 1951	6,296	6,362	5,948	6,305	6,007	6,204	6,268
" " 1952	7,138	7,220	6,784	7,202	6,846	7,037	7,120
" " 1953	7,302	7,392	6,940	7,342	7,007	7,226	7,285
" " 1954	7,314	7,367	6,994	7,339	7,007	7,236	7,285
" " 1955	7,554	7,608	7,098	7,358	7,125	7,284	7,483
31st March, 1956	7,580	7,654	7,099	7,358	7,141	7,361	7,512
30th June, 1956	7,745	7,891	7,293	7,635	7,319	7,630	7,721
30th September, 1956	7,834	7,955	7,352	7,635	7,377	7,649	7,787
31st December, 1956	7,981	7,955	7,406	7,635	7,423	7,649	7,846

(a) See note (a) to table on page 40.

(b) As at 31st December, 1956.

(ii) *Industrial Groups, Australia.* The following table shows for Australia (a) the weighted average weekly rate of wage in each of the industrial groups in which the number of females is significant, and (b) the weighted average wage for all groups combined, at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each industrial group with the average for all groups at 30th April, 1914, as base (=1,000).

WEEKLY WAGE RATES(a): ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index Numbers of Wage Rates in Industrial Groups.

Date.	INDUSTRIAL GROUP.					
	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	I., II., V., and VI. All Other Manu- facturing.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.(b)	XIV. Miscel- laneous.	All Groups.

RATES OF WAGE.

	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
31st December, 1914 ..	23 5	24 11	27 0	30 2	31 4	27 5
" " 1921 ..	43 9	48 7	48 0	48 6	50 0	48 8
" " 1929 ..	49 4	54 4	53 11	54 9	53 10	54 1
" " 1931 ..	44 4	45 5	46 11	50 9	49 10	47 5
" " 1939 ..	48 9	50 9	51 11	54 5	56 8	52 8
" " 1941 ..	53 5	57 4	58 0	58 9	60 7	58 2
" " 1951 ..	164 2	169 6	177 1	160 10	179 10	170 4
" " 1952 ..	186 8	192 5	200 9	183 6	203 10	193 5
" " 1953 ..	191 3	196 6	201 3	188 7	210 2	197 11
" " 1954 ..	191 2	196 6	201 8	188 11	209 11	197 11
" " 1955 ..	198 7	197 6	205 6	195 1	225 1	203 4
31st March, 1956 ..	200 1	197 6	206 3	196 4	227 2	204 1
30th June, 1956 ..	204 4	204 10	212 3	200 8	230 3	209 9
30th September, 1956 ..	207 8	205 0	214 1	203 5	234 9	211 7
31st December, 1956 ..	210 9	205 2	215 8	205 11	238 7	213 2

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia (27s. 2d.) 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1914 ..	862	917	994	1,110	1,153	1,008
" " 1921 ..	1,609	1,789	1,766	1,787	1,841	1,790
" " 1929 ..	1,815	1,999	1,984	2,015	1,982	1,990
" " 1931 ..	1,630	1,672	1,728	1,869	1,834	1,746
" " 1939 ..	1,795	1,869	1,910	2,003	2,085	1,938
" " 1941 ..	1,967	2,110	2,134	2,163	2,229	2,141
" " 1951 ..	6,043	6,238	6,517	5,919	6,618	6,268
" " 1952 ..	6,869	7,081	7,389	6,755	7,501	7,120
" " 1953 ..	7,039	7,232	7,407	6,941	7,735	7,285
" " 1954 ..	7,036	7,232	7,422	6,951	7,725	7,285
" " 1955 ..	7,308	7,268	7,563	7,180	8,285	7,483
31st March, 1956 ..	7,365	7,270	7,591	7,226	8,360	7,512
30th June, 1956 ..	7,519	7,540	7,812	7,384	8,475	7,721
30th September, 1956 ..	7,643	7,544	7,880	7,487	8,640	7,787
31st December, 1956 ..	7,757	7,551	7,936	7,580	8,782	7,846

(a) See note (a) to table on page 40.

(b) Includes the value of board and lodging, where supplied.

4. Weekly and Hourly Rates of Wage, and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1956.—(i) General. The rates of wage referred to in the preceding paragraphs are the minima payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime). The number of hours constituting a full week's work differs, however, in some

instances, between various trades and occupations in each State, and between the same trades and occupations in the several States. To secure what may be for some purposes a better comparison, the results in the preceding paragraphs are reduced to a common basis, namely, the rate of wage per hour in industrial groups in each State and in all States. In the Appendix (Sections III. and IV.) details are given of the number of hours worked per week in the various industries. The following tables include the average number of hours per week in industrial groups for each State.

The tables show (a) the average weekly wage rate; (b) the average number of working hours per week for a full week's work; and (c) the average hourly rate for adult male and female workers in each State and industrial group except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.) and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.). These have been excluded because of the difficulty of obtaining, for some of the occupations in these groups, definite particulars for the computation of average working hours and hourly rates of wage.

(ii) *Adult Males.*—The following table shows the average nominal weekly and hourly rates of wage payable to adult male workers and the weekly hours of labour at 31st December, 1956.

**WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES AND WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR(a):
ADULT MALES, INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.**

Average Rates of Wage Payable and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1956.

Industrial Group.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia. (b)
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	Weekly Wage	325/3	300/2	292/5	295/2	316/8	305/8	309/4
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	8/1½	7/6	7/3¼	7/4½	7/11	7/7½	7/8¼
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	Weekly Wage	308/3	295/3	318/9	289/4	317/5	308/5	303/5
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	7/8½	7/4½	7/11½	7/2½	7/11½	7/8½	7/7
III. Food, Drink, etc. . .	Weekly Wage	314/10	312/1	287/0	300/2	306/11	320/1	307/3
	Working Hours	40.00	39.93	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	39.98
	Hourly Wage	7/10½	7/9½	7/2	7/6	7/8	8/0	7/8½
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc. . .	Weekly Wage	293/9	292/6	298/2	298/2	302/5	290/2	294/2
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	7/4	7/3½	7/5½	7/5½	7/6½	7/3	7/4½
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	Weekly Wage	357/10	346/6	334/1	328/9	362/4	345/10	348/9
	Working Hours	40.00	39.51	40.00	40.00	37.69	40.00	39.72
	Hourly Wage	8/11½	8/9½	8/4½	8/2½	9/7½	8/7½	8/9½
VI. Other Manufacturing . .	Weekly Wage	314/0	299/2	283/10	296/0	305/10	314/4	304/1
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	7/10½	7/5½	7/1½	7/4½	7/7½	7/10½	7/7½
VII. Building . . .	Weekly Wage	356/8	335/4	324/5	314/1	333/2	327/10	340/0
	Working Hours	39.94	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	39.98
	Hourly Wage	8/11½	8/4½	8/1½	7/10½	8/4	8/2½	8/6
VIII. Mining(c) . . .	Weekly Wage	316/10	312/3	301/3	282/1	d330/3	301/5	313/9
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	38.15	40.00	39.69
	Hourly Wage	7/11	7/9½	7/6½	7/0½	8/7½	7/6½	7/10½
IX. Rail and Tram Services . .	Weekly Wage	337/3	321/4	309/3	294/6	309/1	325/10	322/1
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	8/5½	8/0½	7/8½	7/4½	7/8½	8/1½	8/0½
X. Air and Other Land Transport . .	Weekly Wage	316/1	286/3	281/2	278/4	306/6	293/6	298/3
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	7/10½	7/2	7/0½	6/11½	7/8	7/4	7/5½
XI. Shipping, etc.(e)(f) . .	Weekly Wage	325/7	325/8	322/6	323/6	324/2	325/1	324/9
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.(g)	Weekly Wage	378/4	340/5	324/7	326/8	340/0	357/0	351/0

For footnotes see next page.

WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES AND WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR(a):
ADULT MALES, INDUSTRIAL GROUPS—continued.Average Rates of Wage Payable and Weekly Hours of Labour,
31st December, 1956—continued.

Industrial Group.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia. (b)
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	297/2	290/11	266/0	265/11	286/0	281/6	287/7
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	7/5½	7/3¼	6/7¼	6/7¼	7/1¼	7/0½	7/2¼
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	Weekly Wage	313/10	301/2	278/11	273/3	298/5	293/1	300/1
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	7/10½	7/6¼	6/11¼	6/10	7/5½	7/4	7/6
All Groups(b)(g) ..	Weekly Wage	331/3	312/9	301/3	297/11	318/1	319/9	317/7
All Groups except XI. and XII.(b)	Weekly Wage	319/7	306/5	293/4	287/7	313/3	303/11	308/6
	Working Hours	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
	Hourly Wage	8/0	7/8	7/4	7/2¼	7/11¼	7/7¼	7/8¼

(a) See note (a) to table on page 40. (b) Weighted average. (c) Average rates of wage and hours prevailing at the principal mining centres in each State. (d) Excludes district allowances in the gold-mining industry. (e) Average rates of wage are for occupations other than Masters, Officers and Engineers in the Merchant Marine Service, and include value of keep, where supplied. (f) Definite particulars for the computation of average working hours and hourly rates of wage are not available. (g) Partly estimated.

NOTE.—Weekly and hourly wage rates are expressed in shillings and pence.

(iii) *Adult Females*.—The following table shows the average nominal weekly and hourly rates of wage payable to adult female workers and the weekly hours of labour at 31st December, 1956.

WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES AND WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR(a):
ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.

Average Rates of Wage Payable and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1956.

Industrial Group.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia. (b)
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	215/9	211/9	190/4	207/5	183/11	207/2	210/9
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	5/4¼	5/3½	4/9	5/2¼	4/7¼	5/2¼	5/3¼
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	204/3	204/3	207/9	207/9	208/9	206/11	205/2
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	5/1¼	5/1¼	5/2¼	5/2¼	5/2¼	5/2	5/1½
I., II., V., & VI. All Other Manufacturing	Weekly Wage	224/5	211/5	199/1	215/8	..	208/0	215/8
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	5/7¼	5/3½	4/11¼	5/4¼	..	5/2½	5/4¼
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	210/6	216/7	184/7	204/4	195/2	209/10	205/11
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	5/3¼	5/5	4/7¼	5/1¼	4/10½	5/3	5/1¼
XIV. Shop Assistant, Clerks, etc.	Weekly Wage	242/10	253/6	209/5	207/3	..	..	238/7
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	..	..	40.00
	Hourly Wage	6/0¼	6/4	5/2¼	5/2¼	..	..	5/11½
All Groups(b)	Weekly Wage	216/10	216/2	201/3	207/5	201/8	207/10	213/2
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	5/5	5/4¼	5/0¼	5/2¼	5/0½	5/2¼	5/4

(a) See note (a) to table on page 40. (b) Weighted average.

NOTE.—Weekly and hourly wage rates are expressed in shillings and pence.

5. **Hourly Wage Rates.**—(i) *Adult Males.* The following table shows the weighted average nominal hourly rates of wage payable to adult male workers in each State at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia at 30th April, 1914 as base (= 1,000).

HOURLY WAGE RATES(a): ADULT MALES, "ALL GROUPS".

Weighted Average Nominal Hourly Rates Payable and Index Numbers of Hourly Rates.

At 31st December—	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
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RATES OF WAGE.

(Pence.)

1914	14.00	13.75	13.75	13.75	16.25	13.00	14.00
1921	25.25	24.25	26.00	22.75	25.00	23.50	24.75
1929	..	..	28.07	26.46	27.93	25.24	26.85	24.44	27.08
1931	..	..	26.15	21.31	24.42	19.30	22.58	20.66	23.40
1939	..	..	27.41	25.60	27.62	23.62	27.94	23.97	26.55
1941	..	..	29.85	28.91	29.21	27.31	31.27	27.05	29.29
1951	..	..	74.24	71.78	66.39	69.08	74.26	70.90	71.94
1952	..	..	83.55	80.76	76.28	79.53	84.68	80.72	81.43
1953	..	..	85.55	83.19	78.16	80.78	87.09	84.34	83.57
1954	..	..	86.20	83.97	80.35	82.19	87.42	85.32	84.51
1955	..	..	90.22	87.73	82.51	83.22	91.48	86.65	87.87
1956	..	..	95.89	91.97	87.99	86.28	95.14	91.19	92.68
1957	..	..	96.33	93.72	88.79	89.77	97.62	93.59	94.03

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average for Australia (13.96d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

1914	..	..	1,010	990	985	993	1,173	936	1,009
1921	..	..	1,817	1,741	1,865	1,637	1,796	1,675	1,779
1929	..	..	2,011	1,895	2,001	1,808	1,923	1,751	1,940
1931	..	..	1,873	1,527	1,749	1,383	1,617	1,480	1,676
1939	..	..	1,963	1,834	1,979	1,692	2,001	1,717	1,903
1941	..	..	2,138	2,071	2,092	1,956	2,240	1,938	2,098
1951	..	..	5,318	5,142	4,756	4,948	5,319	5,079	5,153
1952	..	..	5,985	5,785	5,464	5,697	6,066	5,782	5,833
1953	..	..	6,128	5,959	5,599	5,787	6,239	6,042	5,986
1954	..	..	6,175	6,015	5,756	5,888	6,262	6,112	6,054
1955	..	..	6,463	6,284	5,910	5,961	6,553	6,207	6,294
1956	..	..	6,869	6,588	6,303	6,181	6,815	6,532	6,639
1957	..	..	6,900	6,713	6,360	6,431	6,993	6,704	6,736

(a) Weighted average hourly rates of wage for all industrial groups except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.) and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.). Definite particulars for the computation of hourly wage rates in Groups XI. and XII. are not available. See also note (a) to table on page 40.

(ii) *Adult Females*.—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hourly rates of wage payable to adult female workers in each State at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia at 30th April, 1914 as base (= 1,000).

HOURLY WAGE RATES(a): ADULT FEMALES, "ALL GROUPS".

Weighted Average Nominal Hourly Rates Payable and Index Numbers of Hourly Rates.

At 31st December—	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
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RATES OF WAGE.

(Pence.)

1914	6.50	6.75	6.50	5.75	9.00	6.00	6.75
1921	13.00	12.50	13.25	11.75	14.75	12.00	12.75
1929	..	..	14.73	14.30	14.95	13.38	15.49	14.00	14.49
1931	..	..	13.57	12.10	12.90	11.21	13.58	11.89	12.68
1939	..	..	14.56	13.99	15.05	12.96	14.72	13.49	14.24
1941	..	..	15.85	15.85	16.23	15.10	16.45	15.43	15.85
1951	..	..	51.32	51.86	48.48	51.40	48.96	50.57	51.09
1952	..	..	58.18	58.85	55.30	58.70	55.80	57.36	58.03
1953	..	..	59.52	60.25	56.57	59.84	57.11	58.90	59.38
1954	..	..	59.62	60.05	57.01	59.82	57.11	58.98	59.38
1955	..	..	61.57	62.01	57.86	59.98	58.07	59.37	61.00
1956	..	..	65.05	64.84	60.36	62.24	60.50	62.35	63.95
1957	..	..	66.03	66.64	62.37	65.38	63.29	64.61	65.65

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average for Australia (6.64d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

1914	..	..	983	1,035	983	881	1,364	920	1,009
1921	..	..	1,965	1,878	1,989	1,770	2,215	1,794	1,923
1929	..	..	2,218	2,154	2,252	2,015	2,333	2,108	2,182
1931	..	..	2,044	1,822	1,943	1,688	2,045	1,791	1,910
1939	..	..	2,193	2,107	2,267	1,952	2,217	2,032	2,145
1941	..	..	2,387	2,387	2,444	2,274	2,477	2,324	2,387
1951	..	..	7,729	7,810	7,301	7,741	7,373	7,616	7,694
1952	..	..	8,762	8,863	8,328	8,840	8,404	8,639	8,739
1953	..	..	8,964	9,074	8,520	9,012	8,601	8,870	8,943
1954	..	..	8,979	9,044	8,586	9,009	8,601	8,883	8,943
1955	..	..	9,273	9,339	8,714	9,033	8,745	8,941	9,187
1956	..	..	9,797	9,765	9,090	9,373	9,111	9,390	9,630
1957	..	..	9,944	10,036	9,393	9,846	9,532	9,730	9,887

(a) See note (a) to table on page 40.

6. **Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour.**—(i) *Adult Males.*—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hours of labour (excluding overtime) in a full working week for adult male workers in each State and Australia at 31st December, 1914 to 1957. Index numbers are given for each State with the weighted average hours of labour for Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR (EXCLUDING OVERTIME)(a): ADULT MALES.

Weighted Average Nominal Hours of Labour (excluding Overtime) worked during a Full Working Week and Index Numbers of Hours of Labour.

At 31st December—	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
1914	49.35	48.66	48.64	48.59	48.18	48.62	48.87
1921	45.66	46.95	45.52	47.07	46.24	46.84	46.22
1929	44.14	46.83	43.96	46.83	45.58	47.09	45.34
1931	44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
1939	43.92	44.61	43.46	45.83	44.33	45.33	44.29
1941	43.68	44.12	43.43	44.49	43.13	44.42	43.83
1946	43.50	43.82	43.18	44.07	43.15	43.38	43.57
1947	41.11	43.68	43.18	42.84	43.15	43.27	42.51
1948	40.00	39.99	40.00	40.00	39.57	40.00	39.96
1954	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
1955	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
1956	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
1957	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average for Australia (48.93), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

1914	1,009	994	994	993	985	994	999
1921	933	960	930	962	945	957	945
1929	902	957	898	957	932	962	927
1931	904	958	919	957	931	956	930
1939	898	912	888	937	906	926	905
1941	893	902	888	909	881	908	896
1946	889	896	882	901	882	887	890
1947	840	893	882	876	882	884	869
1948	817	817	817	817	809	817	817
1954	817	817	817	817	807	817	816
1955	817	817	817	817	807	817	816
1956	817	817	817	817	807	817	816
1957	817	817	817	817	807	817	816

(a) Weighted average working hours per week for all industrial groups except Groups XI, (Shipping, etc.) and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.). Definite particulars for the computation of hourly wage rates in Groups XI. and XII. are not available. See also note (a) to table on page 40.

(ii) *Adult Females.* The following table shows the weighted average nominal hours of labour (excluding overtime) in a full working week for adult female workers in each State and Australia at 31st December, 1914 to 1957. Index numbers are given for each State with the weighted average hours of labour for Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR (EXCLUDING OVERTIME)(a): ADULT FEMALES.

Weighted Average Nominal Hours of Labour (excluding Overtime) worked during a Full Working Week, and Index Numbers of Hours of Labour.

At 31st December—			New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR.									
1914	..	..	49.34	48.54	49.82	49.33	49.44	50.76	49.11
1921	..	..	45.06	46.04	45.66	46.10	45.97	47.86	45.69
1929	..	..	43.93	45.40	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.79
1931	..	..	43.93	45.44	44.56	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.88
1939	..	..	43.88	44.42	44.01	45.96	45.38	45.10	44.36
1941	..	..	43.88	44.19	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.03
1946	..	..	43.88	44.19	44.00	43.99	44.00	44.00	44.03
1947	..	..	41.78	43.99	44.00	42.19	44.00	44.00	43.08
1948	..	..	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
1954	..	..	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
1955	..	..	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
1956	..	..	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
1957	..	..	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average for Australia (49.08), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

1914	..	..	1,005	989	1,015	1,005	1,007	1,034	1,001
1921	..	..	918	938	930	939	937	975	931
1929	..	..	895	925	897	938	928	939	913
1931	..	..	895	926	908	938	928	939	914
1939	..	..	894	905	897	936	925	919	904
1941	..	..	894	900	896	896	896	896	897
1946	..	..	894	900	896	896	896	896	897
1947	..	..	851	896	896	860	896	896	878
1948	..	..	851	896	896	860	896	896	878
1954	..	..	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
1955	..	..	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
1956	..	..	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
1957	..	..	814	814	814	814	814	814	814

(a) See note (a) to table on page 40.

7. Nominal and "Real" Wage Rates.—(i) *General.*—Index numbers of wage rates are said to be *nominal* when they represent changes in the wage rates themselves but are described as *real* when they represent changes in equivalent purchasing power, that is, the purchasing power of the corresponding wages in terms of some definite composite unit or list of items the cost of which can be ascertained at different times. The relation between *nominal* and *real* wages was discussed at some length in Labour Report No. 6, and was also referred to in Labour Report No. 11.

Prior to 1936 it was the practice of the Bureau to compute *real* wage rate index numbers by dividing the nominal wage rate index numbers by the corresponding retail price index numbers for food, groceries and rent of all houses ("A" Series). While wage rates were generally varied on the basis of the "A" Series index numbers there was a good deal to be said for this procedure. When the Commonwealth Court abandoned the "A" Series, the merits of the "C" Series of retail price index numbers for "deflating" nominal wage rates were strengthened. The "C" Series covers food, groceries, rent of four and five-roomed houses, clothing and miscellaneous household requirements. As the computation of the "A" Series index by this Bureau was discontinued after the June quarter, 1938, *real* wages are measured in terms of their purchasing power over the "C" Series only. A table showing for each State and for Australia *real* wages to the end of 1937 measured in terms of their purchasing power over the "A" Series appeared in earlier issues of the Labour Report (see No. 38, page 70).

A graph showing nominal and *real* wage rate index numbers for the period 1911 to 1957 appears on page 65.

(ii) *Nominal Weekly Wage Rate Index Numbers*.—The following table shows, for the period 1911 to 1957, index numbers of the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable for adult males in each State, the weighted average rate for Australia in 1911 being taken as the base (= 1,000). These results are based generally upon the rates of wage prevailing in the capital city of each State, but in certain industries, such as mining, rates are necessarily taken for places other than the capital cities. The index numbers for 1911 are based on rates current at the end of December, 1911, annual averages not being available. For 1914 and subsequent years, however, the index numbers are based on the average of the rates operative at the end of each of the four quarters.

NOMINAL WEEKLY WAGE RATE(a) INDEX NUMBERS: ADULT MALES.

(Base: Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Wage(a) for Australia, 1911 = 1,000.)

State.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1931.	1939.	1954.	1955.	1956. (b)	1957.
New South Wales ..	1,003	1,093	1,862	2,012	1,851	1,874	5,797	5,942	6,254	6,475
Victoria ..	985	1,062	1,803	1,964	1,683	1,808	5,523	5,699	6,000	6,183
Queensland ..	997	1,035	1,879	1,976	1,769	1,885	5,419	5,508	5,737	5,909
South Australia ..	1,013	1,061	1,697	1,891	1,580	1,725	5,456	5,548	5,721	5,973
Western Australia ..	1,152	1,223	1,832	1,960	1,745	1,956	5,709	5,869	6,084	6,320
Tasmania ..	799	1,027	1,745	1,840	1,625	1,738	5,805	5,899	6,144	6,343
Australia ..	1,000	1,081	1,826	1,972	1,752	1,846	5,632	5,773	6,049	6,253

(a) For a full week's work (excluding overtime).

(b) Partly estimated.

(iii) "*Real*" *Weekly Wage Rate Index Numbers*.—In obtaining the *real* wage rate index numbers in the following table the nominal wage rate index numbers shown above have been divided by the corresponding retail price index numbers for the capital city and multiplied by 1,000.

Since the "C" Series index numbers were not compiled for periods prior to November, 1914, it has been assumed for the purpose of the following table that fluctuations between 1911 (the base of the table) and 1914 in the "C" Series would have been similar to the fluctuations observed in the "A" Series.

* For explanation of "A" Series and "C" Series see page 4.

"REAL" WEEKLY WAGE RATE INDEX NUMBERS(a): ADULT MALES.

MEASURED IN TERMS OF PURCHASING POWER OVER THE "C" SERIES LIST OF ITEMS.

(Base: *Weighted Average Real Wage(a) for Australia, 1911 = 1,000.*)

State.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1931.	1939.	1954.	1955.	1956.		1957.			
									A.	B.	A.	B.		
New South Wales	925	1,073	1,130	1,210	1,207	1,467	1,469	1,493	1,459	1,491	1,493	
Victoria	954	1,084	1,164	1,200	1,180	1,455	1,453	1,451	1,409	1,458	1,454	
Queensland	1,022	1,227	1,290	1,336	1,306	1,506	1,501	1,521	1,493	1,509	1,520	
South Australia	914	1,034	1,099	1,137	1,147	1,444	1,421	1,432	1,398	1,459	1,461	
Western Australia	1,043	1,096	1,152	1,189	1,308	1,400	1,385	1,382	1,381	1,397	1,395	
Tasmania	902	984	1,108	1,120	1,153	1,454	1,447	1,412	1,390	1,416	1,421	
Australia	1,000	948	1,087	1,151	1,210	1,211	1,459	1,454	1,465	1,431	1,468	1,469

(a) Indexes of nominal weekly wage rates for adult males divided by the "C" Series retail price index, in which for 1956 and 1957 Column A excludes, and Column B includes, the price movement of potatoes and onions.

In the above table the *real* wage rate index numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. As the index numbers are comparable in all respects, comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the *real* wage rate index number for any State over any period of years.

In Labour Report No. 40, page 70, a table was included showing, at intervals from 1901 to 1929 and for each year from 1931 to 1951, *real* wage rate index numbers for Australia based on the "C" Series. *Real* wage rate index numbers based on the "A" Series were also shown for years prior to 1938.

8. **Productive Activity.**—The table above shows the movement in *real* wage rates, i.e., wages measured in terms of retail purchasing power. A parallel problem is the measure of productivity, i.e., the quantity of production (irrespective of prices) in relation to population or persons engaged in production. The tables formerly published in this section relating to gross value of Australian production and material production per head of population and per person engaged in material production (see Labour Report No. 35) have been discontinued in recent years. Alternative methods of measuring satisfactorily the productivity of the working population are being investigated.

9. **Average Weekly Wage Earnings.**—(i) *Average Weekly Total Wages Paid and Average Earnings, All Industries.*—The following figures are derived from employment and wages recorded on Pay-roll Tax returns (which cover approximately 75 per cent. of the estimated number of civilian wage and salary earners in employment, and from estimates of the unrecorded balance. The figures relate to civilian wages and salaries only, pay and allowances of members of the armed forces being excluded.

AVERAGE WEEKLY TOTAL WAGES PAID AND AVERAGE EARNINGS.

Year.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (b)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
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AVERAGE WEEKLY TOTAL WAGES PAID.
(£'000.)

1945-46	4,966	3,378	1,563	947	689	344	11,887
1948-49	8,133	5,540	2,503	1,644	1,120	580	19,520
1949-50	9,018	6,370	2,838	1,894	1,315	672	22,107
1950-51	11,385	7,916	3,501	2,389	1,639	817	27,647
1951-52	14,364	9,816	4,319	3,018	2,108	1,059	34,684
1952-53	15,090	10,490	4,750	3,311	2,344	1,178	37,163
1953-54	16,043	11,305	5,065	3,561	2,586	1,280	39,840
1954-55	17,357	12,221	5,398	3,839	2,731	1,365	42,911
1955-56	18,955	13,358	5,809	4,195	2,897	1,476	46,690
1956-57	20,167	14,111	6,218	4,387	2,979	1,596	49,458

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT.(c)
(£.)

1945-46	6.57	6.59	5.95	5.89	6.04	5.67	6.37
1948-49	8.73	8.84	7.63	8.03	7.75	7.56	8.44
1949-50	9.50	9.78	8.34	8.83	8.65	8.49	9.26
1950-51	11.46	11.70	9.82	10.58	10.23	9.99	11.09
1951-52	14.24	14.20	11.93	13.13	12.80	12.59	13.65
1952-53	15.50	15.46	13.32	14.58	14.13	13.97	14.95
1953-54	16.15	16.27	14.05	15.30	15.04	14.92	15.69
1954-55	16.96	17.06	14.51	16.09	15.55	15.60	16.42
1955-56	18.16	18.22	15.34	17.10	16.37	16.66	17.51
1956-57	19.20	19.13	16.24	17.70	17.02	17.73	18.43

(a) Includes the Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes the Northern Territory. (c) Male units represent total male employment plus a proportion of female employment based on the approximate ratio of female to male earnings. The same ratio has been used in each State, and because the average ratio of female to male earnings may vary between States, precise comparisons between average earnings in different States cannot be made on the basis of the figures above.

(ii) *Average Weekly Wage Earnings Index Numbers.*—The following table shows, for “All Industries” and for “Manufacturing”, the movement in average weekly wage earnings from 1945-46 to the December Quarter, 1957. The “All Industries” index is based on Pay-roll Tax returns and other data. The index for manufacturing industries for the years 1945-46 to 1955-56 is based on the average earnings of male wage and salary earners employed in factories as disclosed by annual factory returns. Figures subsequent to June, 1956 are preliminary estimates based on Pay-roll Tax returns.

The index numbers show for “All Industries” and “Manufacturing” the movement in average earnings over a period of time. However, they do not give, at any point of time, a comparison of actual earnings in the two groups. The base of each series is the year 1945-46 = 1,000 and both series have been seasonally adjusted.

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE EARNINGS(a) INDEX NUMBERS: AUSTRALIA.
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED.

(Base of each Series: Year 1945-46 = 1,000.)

Year.	All Industries.(b)	Manufacturing.	Quarter.			All Industries.(b)	Manufacturing.
1945-46	1,000	1,000	1955—Sept.	Qtr.	..	2,689	2,806
1946-47	1,037	1,056	Dec.	..	..	2,731	2,849
1947-48	1,164	1,206					
1948-49	1,322	1,365	1956—March	..	..	2,749	2,859
1949-50	1,451	1,505	June	..	..	2,801	2,897
1950-51	1,742	1,810	Sept.	..	..	2,863	2,968
			Dec.	..	..	2,903	2,996
1951-52	2,145	2,213					
1952-53	2,350	2,394	1957—March	..	..	2,910	2,983
1953-54	2,462	2,511	June	..	..	2,921	2,986
1954-55	2,572	2,685	Sept.	..	..	2,975	3,016
1955-56	2,743	2,853	Dec.	..	..	2,996	(c)
1956-57	2,899	2,984					

(a) Including salaries. (b) Average earnings per male unit employed. Male units represent total male employment plus a proportion of female employment based on the approximate ratio of female to male earnings. (c) Not available.

§ 3. Standard Hours of Work.

1. **General.**—In the fixation of weekly wage rates most industrial tribunals prescribe the number of hours constituting a full week's work for the wage rates specified. The hours of work so prescribed form the basis of the compilation of the index numbers on pages 46-49. The first year shown is 1914, at which time the 48-hour week was recognized as a standard working week for most industries. The main features of the reduction of hours from 48 to 40 per week are summarized below. In considering such changes it must be remembered that even within individual States the authority to alter conditions of labour is divided between Commonwealth and State industrial tribunals and the various legislatures, and that the State legislation does not apply to employees covered by awards of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

2. **The 44-hour Week.**—No permanent reduction to a 44-hour week was effected until 1925, although temporary reductions had been achieved earlier. In 1920 the New South Wales legislature granted a 44-hour week to most industries, but in the following year this provision was withdrawn. Also in 1920 the President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration (Higgins J.), after inquiry, granted a 44-hour week to Timber Workers, and in the following year extended the same privilege to the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. In 1921, however, a reconstituted Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration unanimously rejected applications by five trade unions for the shorter standard week and reintroduced the 48-hour week in the case of the above-mentioned two unions then working 44 hours. During 1924 the Queensland Parliament passed legislation to operate from 1st July, 1925, granting the 44-hour standard week to employees whose conditions of work were regulated by awards and agreements of the Queensland State industrial authority. Similar legislative action in New South Wales led to the re-introduction of the 44-hour week in that State as from 4th January, 1926.

In 1927 after an exhaustive inquiry the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration granted a 44-hour week to the Amalgamated Engineering Union and intimated that this reduction in standard hours of work would be extended to industries operating under conditions similar to those in the engineering industry. Applications for the shorter hours by other unions were, however, treated individually, the nature of the industry, the problem of production, the financial status and the amount of foreign competition being fully investigated. The economic depression delayed the extension of the standard 44-hour week until the subsequent improvement in economic conditions made possible its general extension to employees under Commonwealth awards.

In States other than New South Wales and Queensland no legislation was passed to reduce the standard hours of work so that, for employees not covered by Commonwealth awards, the change had to be effected by decisions of the appropriate industrial tribunals. In these cases the date on which the reduction to 44 hours was implemented depended on the decision of the tribunals in particular industries, employees in some industries receiving the benefit of the reduced hours years ahead of those in others. In these States the change to the shorter week extended over the years from 1926 to 1941.

3. *The 40-hour Week.*—(i) *Standard Hours Inquiry, 1947.*—Soon after the cessation of hostilities in the 1939–45 War, applications were made to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the introduction of a 40-hour week, and the hearing by the Court commenced in October, 1945. Before the Court gave its decision the New South Wales Parliament passed legislation granting a 40-hour week, operative from 1st July, 1947, to industries and trades regulated by State awards and agreements, and in Queensland similar legislation was introduced in Parliament providing for the 40-hour week to become operative from 1st January, 1948.

The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in its judgment on 8th September, 1947, granted the reduction to the 40-hour week from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in January, 1948. The Queensland Act was passed, and was proclaimed on 10th October, 1947. On 27th October, 1947, the South Australian Industrial Court after hearing applications by unions approved the incorporation of the 40-hour standard week in awards of that State. The Court of Arbitration of Western Australia on 6th November, 1947, approved that, on application, provision for a 40-hour week could be incorporated in awards of the Court, commencing from 1st January, 1948.

In Victoria and Tasmania the Wages Boards met and also incorporated the shorter working week in their determinations, so that from the beginning of 1948 practically all employees in Australia whose conditions of labour were regulated by industrial authorities had the advantages of a standard working week of 40 hours or, in certain cases, less.

(ii) *Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry, 1952–53.*—In the 1952–53 Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry the employers sought an increase in the standard hours of work per week, claiming that “one of the chief causes of the high costs and inflation has been the loss of production due to the introduction of the 40-hour week”.* This claim was rejected by the Court as it considered that the employers had not proved that the existing economic situation called for a reduction of general standards in the matter of the ordinary working week. (See also page 61.)

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 77, p. 505.

§ 4. Basic Wages in Australia.

1. **The Basic Wage.**—The concept of a “basic” or “living” wage is common to rates of wage determined by industrial authorities in Australia. Initially the concept was interpreted as the “minimum” or “basic” wage necessary to maintain an average employee and his family in a reasonable state of comfort. However, it is now generally accepted “that the dominant factor in fixing the basic wage . . . is the economic or productivity factor and that the basic wage must be the highest that industry as a whole can pay.”*

Under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission (prior to June, 1956 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration) may, for the purpose of preventing or settling an industrial dispute extending beyond the limits of any State, make an order or award altering the basic wage (that is to say, that wage, or that part of a wage, which is just and reasonable, without regard to any circumstance pertaining to the work upon which, or the industry in which, the person is employed) or the principles upon which it is computed.

In practice, the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission holds general basic wage inquiries from time to time and its findings apply to industrial awards within its jurisdiction. Prior to the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, announced on 12th September, 1953, discontinuing the automatic adjustment of basic wages in Commonwealth awards in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index numbers, the relevant basic wage of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration was adopted to a considerable extent by the State Industrial Tribunals. In New South Wales and South Australia the State industrial authorities adopted the relevant Commonwealth basic wage. In Victoria and Tasmania, where the Wages Boards systems operate, no provision was included in the industrial Acts for the declaration of a basic wage, although Wages Boards have in the past generally adopted basic wages based on those of the Commonwealth Court. In Queensland and Western Australia the determination of a basic wage is a function of the respective State Industrial or Arbitration Courts and, subject to State law, they have had regard to rates determined by the Commonwealth Court. Following the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to discontinue automatic quarterly adjustments to the basic wage, the various State industrial authorities determined State basic wages in accordance with the provisions of their respective State industrial legislation. Details of the action taken in each State and subsequent variations in State basic wages are set out in para. 5 (see pages 84–97).

In addition to the basic wage, “secondary” wage payments, including margins for skill, loadings and other special considerations peculiar to the occupations or industry, are determined by these authorities. The basic wage and the “secondary” wage, where prescribed, make up the “minimum” wage for a particular occupation. The term minimum wage (as distinct from the basic wage) is used currently to express the lowest rate payable for a particular occupation or industry.

In §1 of this chapter (pages 30–38) particulars are given of the current Commonwealth and State industrial Acts and the industrial authorities established by these Acts. The powers of these authorities include the determination and variation of basic wage rates.

* 44 C.A.R., p. 57.

2. **The Commonwealth Basic Wage.**—(i) *Early Judgments.*—The principle of a living or basic wage was propounded as far back as 1890 by Sir Samuel Griffith, Premier of Queensland, but it was not until the year 1907 that a wage, as such, was declared by a Court in Australia. The declaration was made by way of an order in terms of section 2 (d) of the Excise Tariff 1906 in the matter of an application by H. V. McKay that the remuneration of labour employed by him at the Sunshine Harvester Works, Victoria, was “fair and reasonable”.

The Commonwealth Parliament had by the Act imposed certain excise duties on agricultural implements, but provided that the Act should not apply to goods manufactured in Australia “under conditions as to the remuneration of labour which are declared by the President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to be fair and reasonable”. Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, discussed at length the meaning of “fair and reasonable”, and defined the standard of a “fair and reasonable” minimum wage for unskilled labourers as that appropriate to “the normal needs of the average employee, regarded as a human being living in a civilized community”.* The rate declared by the President in his judgment (known as the “Harvester Judgment”) was 7s. a day or £2 2s. a week for Melbourne, the amount considered reasonable for “a family of about five”.† According to a rough allocation by the Judge, the constituent parts of this amount were £1 5s. 5d. for food, 7s. for rent, and 9s. 7d. for all other expenditure.

The “Harvester” standard was adopted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for incorporation in its awards, and practically the same rates continued until the year 1913, when the Court took cognizance of the retail price index numbers, covering food and groceries and rent of all houses (“A” series) for the 30 more important towns of Australia, which had been published by the Commonwealth Statistician for the first time in the preceding year. The basic wage rates for towns were thereafter varied in accordance with the respective retail price index numbers. Court practice was to equate the retail price index number 875 for Melbourne for the year 1907 to the “Harvester” rate of 42s. a week (or the base of the index (1,000) to 48s. a week). At intervals thereafter, as awards came before it for review, the Court usually revised the basic wage rate of the award in proportion to variations in the retail price index. In some country towns certain “loadings” were added by the Court to wage rates so derived to offset the effect of lower housing standards, and consequently lower rents, on the index number for these towns.

Over the period of its operation, the adequacy or otherwise of the “Harvester” standard was the subject of much discussion, the author of the judgment himself urging on several occasions the need for its review. During the period of rapidly rising prices towards the end of the 1914–18 War, strong criticism developed that this system did not adequately maintain the “Harvester” equivalents. A Royal Commission was appointed in 1919 to inquire as to what it would actually cost a man, wife and three children under fourteen years of age to live in a reasonable standard of comfort, and as to how the basic wage might be automatically adjusted to maintain purchasing power. The Commission’s Reports were presented in November, 1920 and

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 2, p. 3. † The average number of dependent children per family was apparently regarded by the Court as about three, although statistical information available at the time did not permit of exact figures being ascertained. For particulars of available information which may have been considered by the Court, see Labour Report No. 41, footnote on page 73.

April, 1921.* An application by the unions to have the amounts arrived at by the inquiry declared as basic wage rates was not accepted by the Court because they were considerably in advance of existing rates and grave doubts were expressed by members of the Court as to the ability of industry to pay such rates.

The system of making automatic quarterly adjustments to the basic wage in direct ratio to variations in the retail price index ("A" Series) was first introduced in 1921. The practice then adopted was to calculate the adjustments to the basic wage quarterly on the index number for the preceding quarter. Previously adjustments had been made sporadically in relation to retail price indexes for the previous calendar year or the year ended with the preceding quarter. The practice adopted by the Commonwealth Court in 1921 of making automatic quarterly adjustments continued until the Court's judgment of 12th September, 1953.†

In 1922 an amount known as the "Powers' 3s." was added by the Court‡ as a general "loading" to the weekly basic wage, for the purpose of maintaining, during a period of rising prices, the full equivalent of the "Harvester" standard. This loading continued until 1934.

(ii) *Basic Wage Inquiries*, 1930-31, 1932, 1933.—No change was made in the method of fixation and adjustment of the basic wage until the onset of depression, which began to be felt severely during 1930. Applications were then made to the Court for some greater measure of reduction of wages than that which resulted from the automatic adjustments due to falling retail prices. The Court held a general inquiry, and, while declining to make any change in the existing method of calculating the basic wage, reduced all wage rates under its jurisdiction by 10 per cent. from 1st February, 1931.§ In June, 1932, the Court refused applications by employee organizations for the cancellation of the 10 per cent. reduction of wage rates.|| In May, 1933 the Court again refused to cancel the 10 per cent. reduction in wage rates, but decided that the existing method of adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with the "A" Series retail price index number had resulted in some instances in a reduction of more than 10 per cent. In order to rectify this the Court adopted the "D" Series of retail price index numbers for future quarterly adjustments of the basic wage.¶

(iii) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1934.—The "Harvester" standard, adjusted to retail price variations, continued to be the theoretical basis of the basic wage of the Commonwealth Court until the Court's judgment, delivered on 17th April, 1934,** declared new basic wage rates to operate from 1st May, 1934. The new rates were declared on the basis of the relative "C" Series retail price index numbers for the various cities for the December quarter, 1933, and ranged from 61s. for Brisbane to 67s. for Sydney and Hobart, the average wage for the six capital cities being 65s.

The 10 per cent. special reduction in wages referred to above ceased to operate upon the introduction of the new rates, and the automatic quarterly adjustment of the basic wage with variations in retail price index numbers was transferred from the "A" and the "D" Series to the "C" Series Retail Price Index.†† The base of the index (1,000) was taken by the Court as equal to 81s. a week. The new basic wage for the six capital cities was the same

* See Labour Report No. 41, 1952, pp. 102 and 103 for a summary of the Commission's findings.
 † See p. 61. ‡ *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 16, p. 32. § *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 30, p. 2. || 31 C.A.R., p. 305. ¶ 32 C.A.R., p. 90. ** 33 C.A.R., p. 144.
 †† For explanation of the "A", "C" and "D" Series see page 4 of this Report.

as that previously paid under the "A" Series, without the "Powers' 3s." and without the 10 per cent. reduction. For further particulars of the judgment in this inquiry see Labour Report No. 26, p. 76.

(iv) *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1937.*—In May and June, 1937, the Commonwealth Court heard an application by the combined unions for an increase in the basic wage. The unions asked that the equivalent of the base (1,000) of the "C" Series index be increased from 81s. to 93s., which on index numbers then current would have represented an average increase of about 10s. a week. The chief features of the judgment, delivered on 23rd June,* were:—

(a) Amounts were added to the basic wage not as an integral, and therefore adjustable, part of that wage, but as "loadings" additional to the rates payable under the 1934 judgment. The wage assessed on the 1934 basis was designated in the new judgment as the "needs" portion of the total resultant basic wage. These loadings, referred to as "Prosperity" loadings, were 6s. for Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane; 4s. for Adelaide, Perth and Hobart; and 5s. for the six capitals basic wage. "Prosperity" loadings for the basic wage for provincial towns in each State, for combinations of towns and combinations of capital cities, and for railway, maritime and pastoral workers were also provided for in the judgment.

(b) The minimum adjustment of the basic wage was fixed at 1s. a week instead of 2s.

(c) The basis of the adjustment of the "needs" portion of the wage in accordance with the variations shown by retail price index numbers was transferred from the "C" Series to a special "Court" Series based upon the "C" Series. (See page 5.)

(d) Female and junior rates were left for adjustment by individual judges when dealing with specific awards.

The main parts of the judgment were reprinted in Labour Report No. 28, pp. 77–87.

(v) *Judgment, December, 1939.*—The Commonwealth Court on 19th December, 1939 heard an application by trade unions for an alteration in the date of adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with the variations in the "Court" Series of index numbers. On the same day, the Court directed that such adjustments be made operative from the beginning of the first pay-period to commence in February, May, August or November, one month earlier than the then current practice.†

(vi) *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1940.*—On 5th August, 1940 the Full Court commenced the hearing of an application by the combined unions for an increase in the existing basic wage by raising the value of 1,000 (the base of the "C" Series index upon which the "Court" Series was based) from 81s. to 100s. a week, and the incorporation of the existing "Prosperity" loadings in the new rate mentioned. In its judgment of 7th February, 1941‡ the Court unanimously refused to grant any increase, and decided that the application should not be dismissed but stood over for further consideration after 30th June, 1941. The application was refused mainly owing to the uncertainty of the economic outlook under existing war conditions.

Concerning the concept of a basic wage providing for the needs of a specific family unit, Chief Judge Beeby in his judgment stated:—"The Court has always conceded that the 'needs' of an average family should be kept in mind in fixing a basic wage. But it has never, as the result of its own inquiry,

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 37 p. 583.

† *C.A.R.*, p. 520.

‡ 44 *C.A.R.*, p. 41.

specifically declared what is an average family, or what is the cost of a regimen of food, clothing, shelter and miscellaneous items necessary to maintain it in frugal comfort, or that a basic wage should give effect to any such finding. In the end economic possibilities have always been the determining factor . . . what should be sought is the independent ascertainment and prescription of the highest basic wage that can be sustained by the total of industry in all its primary, secondary and ancillary forms. . . . More than ever before wage fixation is controlled by the economic outlook."

The Chief Judge suggested that the basic wage should be graded according to family responsibilities and that, notwithstanding the increase in aggregate wages, a reapportionment of national income to those with more than one dependent child would be of advantage to the Commonwealth. The relief afforded to those who needed it would more than offset the inflationary tendency of provision for a comprehensive scheme of child endowment. If a scheme of this nature were established, future fixations of the basic wage would be greatly simplified. (The Child Endowment Act came into operation on 1st July, 1941. See pages 105-107 for current features.)

(vii) "*Interim*" *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1946.—The Court, on 25th November, 1946, commenced the hearing of this case as the result of (a) an application made on 30th October, 1946 (during the course of the Standard Hours Case) by the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth for the restoration to the Full Court List of certain adjourned 1940 basic wage applications (see (vi) above); (b) a number of fresh cases which had come to the Court since 1941; and (c) an application by the Australian Council of Trade Unions on behalf of trade unions for an "interim" basic wage declaration.

Judgment was delivered on 13th December, 1946,* whereby an increase of 7s. was granted in the adjustable portion of the basic wage then current to operate from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in the month of December, 1946, except in the case of casual and maritime workers, for whom the increases operated from 1st December.

For the purpose of automatic quarterly adjustments a new "Court" Series of index numbers was created by increasing the base index number (1923-27) from 81.0 to 87.0. The "Court" Series index number calculated on this base for the September quarter, 1946 effected an increase in the basic wage for the weighted average of the six capital cities (as a whole) from 93s. to 100s. A similar increase of 7s. was recorded in the basic wage for each capital city except Hobart, where the amount was 6s. All "loadings" on the basic wage were retained at their existing amounts unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

This new series was designated "Court Index (Second Series)" to distinguish it from the "Court Index (First Series)" which was introduced after the 1937 Basic Wage Inquiry. The new "Court" index numbers were obtained by multiplying the "C" Series retail price index numbers (Base: 1923-27 = 1,000) by the factor 0.087, and taking the result to the first decimal place.

The wage rates for adult females and juveniles were to be increased proportionately to the increase granted to adult males, the amount of the increase being determined by the provisions in each award. For further particulars of the judgment see Labour Report No. 38, p. 79.

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 57, p. 603.

(viii) *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1949-50*.—This finalized the case begun in 1940 and continued in 1946 (*see above*). In 1946, during the hearing of the Standard Hours Inquiry and following the restoration to the Full Court List of applications for an increased basic wage, the Chief Judge ruled that the claim for an increase in the basic wage should be heard concurrently with the "40-hour week" claims then before the Court. The unions, however, objected to this course being followed, and, on appeal to the High Court, that Court in March, 1947, gave a decision which resulted in the Arbitration Court proceeding with the "Hours" Case to its conclusion.

The Basic Wage Inquiry, 1949-50, finally opened in February, 1949, and the general hearing of the unions' claims was commenced on 17th May, 1949. Evidence was completed on 22nd August, 1950, and the three Judges (Kelly *C.J.*, Foster and Dunphy *JJ.*) delivered separate judgments on 12th October, 1950.* In those judgments, which were in the nature of general declarations, a majority of the Court (Foster and Dunphy *JJ.*) was of the opinion that the basic wage for adult males should be increased by £1 a week, and that for adult females should be 75 per cent. of the adult male rate. Kelly *C.J.*, dissenting, considered that no increase in either the male or the female wage was justified.

On 24th October, 1950 and 23rd November, 1950 the Court made further declarations regarding the "Prosperity" loading of 1937 (*see page 58*), which was being paid at rates between 3s. and 6s. a week according to localities, etc., and the future basis of quarterly adjustments. The "Prosperity" loading was standardized at a uniform rate of 5s. a week for all localities and was declared to be an adjustable part of the basic wage. The Court also declared that the "War" loadings were not part of the basic wage.

With regard to other "loadings" the Court, on 17th November, 1950, proceeded to examine the individual awards in the claims before it, for the purpose of determining to what extent such "loadings" formed part of the basic wage. Any "loading" declared to be part of the basic wage ceased to be paid as a separate entity, but apart from the special case of the Australian Capital Territory there were very few "loadings" which fell within this category.

The new rates operated from the beginning of the first pay-period in December, 1950, in all cases being the rate based on the Court Index (2nd Series) for the September quarter, 1950 plus a flat-rate addition of £1, together with the standardized "Prosperity" loading of 5s.

The basic wage rate for the six capital cities (weighted average) arrived at by the Court after applying the foregoing declarations was £8 2s., comprising £6 17s. Court (2nd Series) plus 5s. uniform "Prosperity" loading plus the £1 addition. The declaration provided that the whole of this basic wage would be subject to automatic quarterly adjustments as from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in February, 1951, on the basis of the index numbers for the December quarter, 1950. For this purpose the new rate of £8 2s. was equated to the "C" Series retail price index number 1572 for the six capital cities (weighted average) for the September quarter, 1950. From this equation was derived a new "Court" Index (Third Series) with 103.0 equated to 1,000 in the "C" Series Index.

* 68 *C.A.R.*, p. 698.

The basic wage rates operative in November, 1950, in comparison with those operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950, are shown below:—

Date of Operation.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>
November, 1950 ..	146 0	143 0	135 0	137 0	139 0	139 0	142 0
December, 1950 ..	165 0	162 0	154 0	158 0	160 0	160 0	162 0

(ix) *Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry, 1952-53.*—On 5th August, 1952, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration began hearing claims by:—

1. The Metal Trades Employers' Association and other employers' organizations—
 - (a) that the basic wage for adult males be reduced;
 - (b) that the basic wage for adult females be reduced;
 - (c) that the standard hours of work be increased;
 - (d) that the system of adjusting the basic wages in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index numbers be abandoned.
2. The Metal Trades Federation, an association of employees' organizations, that the basic wage for adult males be increased, which would also have resulted in increasing the amount, though not the proportion it bore to the basic wage for adult males, of the basic wage for adult females.

A number of Governments, organizations and other bodies obtained leave to intervene and in this role the Australian Council of Trade Unions supported the claims of the Metal Trades Federation.

The Court consisted of Kelly *C.J.*, Foster, Kirby, Dunphy, Wright, McIntyre and Morgan *JJ.*, but before the hearing of evidence commenced Wright *J.* withdrew and during the hearing of the case Foster *J.* withdrew from the bench. The Court gave its decision on 12th September, 1953, and stated that reasons for its decision would be delivered later. Before the reasons for the judgment could be delivered McIntyre *J.* died.

In the early stages of the case the employers applied for an immediate and separate hearing on the question of suspension of the basic wage adjustment provisions in awards. The Court, however, after hearing argument, indicated that it was not satisfied that a sufficient case had been made out for such a separate hearing.

Evidence in the employers' case began on 16th September, 1952. On completion of the employers' case the counsel for employee organizations submitted that there was "no case to answer" and asked for the dismissal of the case. The Court rejected this claim and the hearing of evidence for the employee organizations was concluded on 11th September, 1953.

The decision of the Court, announced on 12th September, 1953, was expressed in the following terms:—

- “ 1. The employers' applications for reduction of the current basic wages for adult males and for reduction of the current basic wages for adult females are refused.
2. The employers' applications for an increase of the standard hours of work in the industries covered thereby are refused.
3. The employers' applications for omission or deletion of clauses or sub-clauses providing for the adjustment of basic wages are granted.
4. The Unions' applications for increases of basic wages are refused.

The Court makes orders accordingly, to operate as from today.

The reasons for the above decision will be delivered at a later date.

The form of the appropriate orders will be settled by the Industrial Registrar.”

The reasons for the above decision were delivered on 27th October, 1953.

The Court in the course of its judgment said that in the present case nothing had been put before it in support of a departure from its now well-established principle that the basic wage should be the highest that the capacity of the community as a whole could sustain. If the Court is at any time asked to fix a basic wage on a true needs basis, the question of whether such a method is correct in principle and all questions as to the size of the family unit remain open.

No evidence was submitted in the inquiry to suggest that the basic wage in its character of a “foundational wage” of providing, or helping to provide, a just and reasonable standard of living to employees whose income is based or dependent upon it, was inadequate, and the arguments of both the employers and employees were directed towards a basic wage based on the capacity of industry to pay.

The Court, in reviewing the claims of the respondents, in the light of the existing economic situation, indicated that although aware of the difficulties besetting industry and of the dependence of Australia's prosperity upon that large part of her productive effort whose rewards are conditioned by good seasons and whose prices are largely beyond her control, the Court was satisfied that the employers had not discharged the onus of proving that the existing situation called for a reduction of general standards either in the matter of the basic wage or in the matter of the ordinary working week. On the other hand, the Court was satisfied that there could be, in the existing situation, no increase in the basic wage, as was claimed by the Metal Trades Federation.

The Court decided to discontinue the system of automatic adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers while the basic wage was assessed on the capacity of industry. It was considered that “the further the Court has withdrawn from relating the basic wage to the fulfilment of any particular standard of needs, the less has become the justification for keeping the nominal wage ‘automatically adjusted’ during

the currency of an award".* Moreover, there was no ground for assuming that the capacity of industry to pay will be maintained at the same level or that it will rise or fall coincidentally with the purchasing power of money. The Court found that the system of automatic adjustments had undoubtedly been an accelerating factor in the rapid increase in prices in Australia, particularly in the years 1951 and 1952, and this factor supported the Court's decision to discontinue the system.

In regard to the basic wage for female employees, the Court decided that no basis existed, on the material presented to it, for a review of the existing ratio of the female to the male basic wage, the Court being satisfied that industry had the capacity to maintain the existing female basic wage rates.

In rejecting the claim for an increase in the standard hours of work, the Court considered that the industry of the country was healthy and prosperous enough at present to sustain the existing standard (i.e., 40 hours a week).

The Court intimated that time would be saved in future inquiries if the parties to the disputes, in discussing the principle of the "capacity to pay", directed their attention to the broader aspects of the economy, such as indicated by a study of employment, investment, production and productivity, overseas trade, overseas balances, competitive position of secondary industry and retail trade.

In order to remove certain misconceptions about the function of the Court it was stated during the course of the judgment that "the Arbitration Court is neither a social nor an economic legislature. Its function under section 25 of the Act is to prevent or settle specific industrial disputes".† However, this function must be exercised in the social and economic setting of the time at which it makes its decision. It must settle industrial disputes upon terms which seem to it to be just, having regard to conditions which exist at the time of its decision. In addition, the Court stressed that "the primary rule that a claimant is required to substantiate his claim should always be observed."‡

In accordance with its decision to abolish the automatic adjustment clause from its awards, the Court began, on 21st October, 1953, to deal with awards which were not actually affected by the original order. During this process the Court announced that it had no other method in mind in substitution of the automatic adjustment clauses. In fact the only issue before the Court was the abolition or retention of the adjustment principle and that issue had been determined. The basic wage as fixed by the Court in the new or amended clauses in awards was that operating from August, 1953, and no provision was made for its automatic quarterly adjustment.

The last such adjustment had been made on the "Court" Series retail price index numbers for the June quarter, 1953.

After the Court had amended all the awards listed before it as a result of applications by one of the parties to the awards, the Court, on its own motion under section 49 of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, listed those awards not the subject of an application by one of the parties and then proceeded to delete the clauses providing for the automatic adjustment of the basic wage.

The power of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to vary awards not the subject of an application by one of the parties was unsuccessfully challenged in the High Court of Australia.

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 77, p. 497.

† *Ibid.*, p. 506.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 507.

(x) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1956.—On 14th February, 1956 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, consisting of Kirby, Dunphy, Wright and Morgan *JJ.*, commenced hearing an application by the Amalgamated Engineering Union and others made by summons for alteration of the basic wage prescribed in the Metal Trades Award in the following respects:—namely, for an increase in the basic wage to the amount it would have reached if automatic quarterly adjustments deleted by the Court in September, 1953 had remained in force; an increase of a further £1 in the basic wage; the re-introduction of automatic quarterly adjustments; and the abolition of what is known as the 3s. country differential. This application was regarded as a general application for variation of the basic wage in all awards of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

All the claims made by the unions were opposed by the respondent employers. The Attorney-General of the Commonwealth intervened in the public interest under section 26 (1) of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, and in the course of proceedings all six States were represented by counsel or a State official.

Counsel for the Commonwealth stressed that the Commonwealth appeared not as a party but in the public interest and supplied much factual and statistical material in a review of the economy from 1953. He submitted that the Australian economy "is to all appearances a prosperous economy," with two inherent weaknesses "in the state of our overseas trade and reserves" and "the rising tendency of costs and prices". The Commonwealth made no submission as to the amount of the basic wage; however, it submitted that the Court had been correct in its decision of 1953 to abolish the system of automatic quarterly adjustments and that its grounds for doing so were valid.

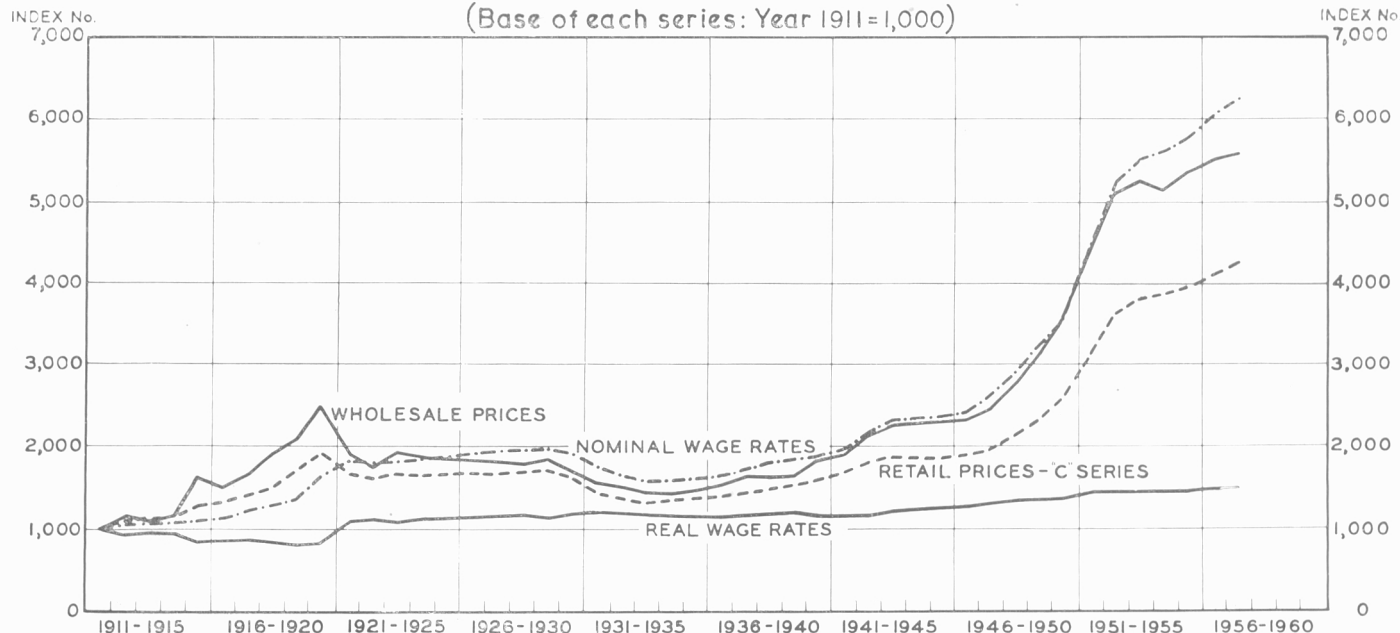
The States of New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania supported the union claims for the re-establishment of the system of automatic adjustments and the raising of the basic wage to the levels indicated by current "C" Series index numbers, but made no submission at all regarding the union claims for a further increase of £1 a week for adult males. The State of South Australia opposed the re-introduction of automatic adjustments, but conceded that "in making a review of the basic wage a substantial factor to be taken into account is the changed cost of living". However, as regards the union claim for an increase in the basic wage to the amount it would have reached if automatic quarterly adjustments deleted by the Court in September, 1953 had remained in force, together with a £1 increase in the basic wage, amounting in total to 35s. a week at that time, the State submitted without elaboration "that there are grave doubts as to whether the increased basic wage to the extent asked by the applicant could be granted without serious damage to the economy". The State of Victoria neither supported nor opposed the union claims, either as an employer or as representing all interests in the community, but supplied to the Court comprehensive statements relating to activities of the State Departments and instrumentalities and estimates of the amounts and effects of the claims before the Court.

In delivering its judgment on 26th May, 1956, the Court rejected each claim made by the unions but decided to increase the adult male basic wage by 10s. a week payable from the beginning of the first pay-period in June. As a result of this decision, the basic wage for adult females was increased by 7s. 6d. a week with proportionate increase for juniors of both sexes and for apprentices. The Court in its decision to increase the Commonwealth basic wage stated "it may be taken that the increase would have been more if the burden on the economy of the increases in the State basic wages had not been imposed".

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES; NOMINAL AND REAL WAGE RATES

INDEX NUMBERS, AUSTRALIA, 1911 TO 1957

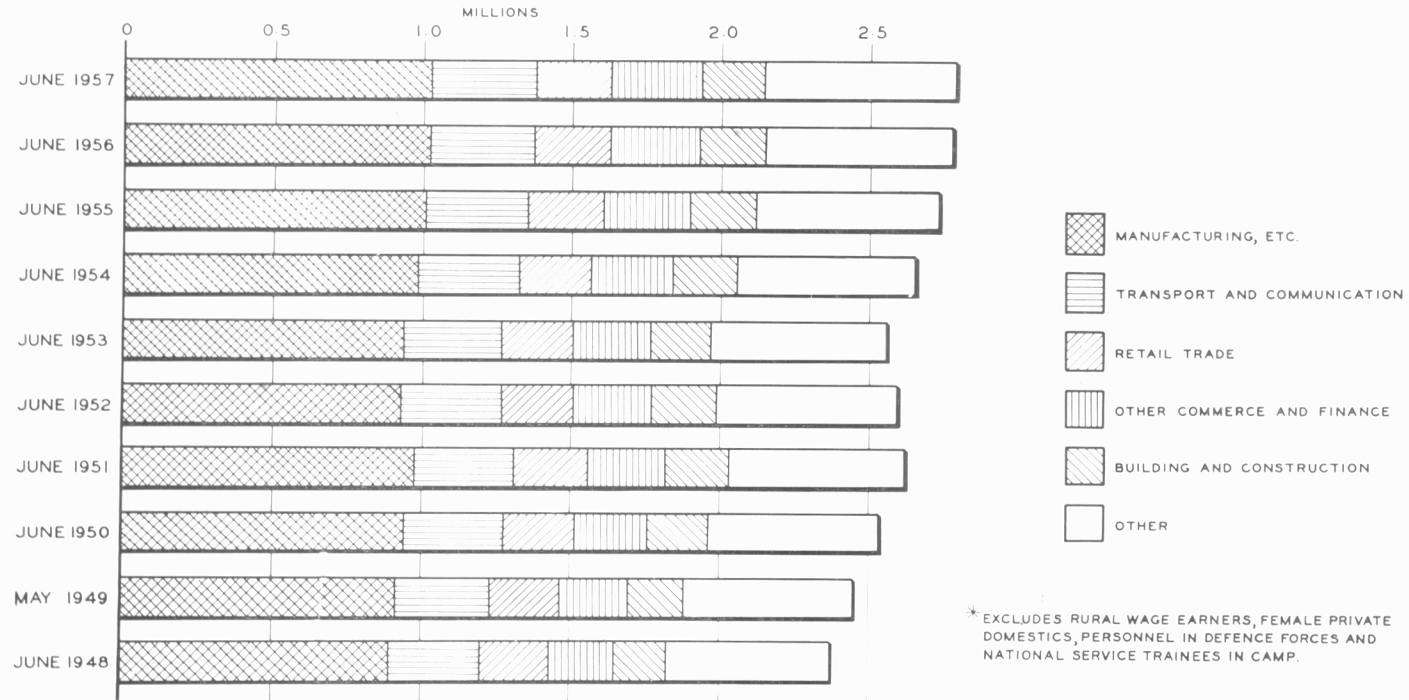
(Base of each series: Year 1911=1,000)



NOTE.—Index numbers in this graph are for the six capital cities as a whole, except for those for wholesale prices up to December quarter, 1927, which are for Melbourne. The wholesale prices graph shows the trend of prices according to the "old" Melbourne Index up to December quarter, 1927, but thereafter, this index having been "spliced" with the Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Index, the curve moves in accordance with the variations of the latter. The price quotations for this index are, in the main, obtained from Melbourne sources, but their movements may be taken as representative of fluctuations in most Australian markets. For the period 1911-1914 the "C" Series index numbers are taken back from the true base (November, 1914 = 1,000) by means of the "A" Series Index (Food and Rent of All Houses). From September quarter, 1955 these "C" Series index numbers exclude the price movement of potatoes and onions. See para. 6, p. 15. Real wage rates are computed on the basis of the "C" Series Retail Price Index.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT*

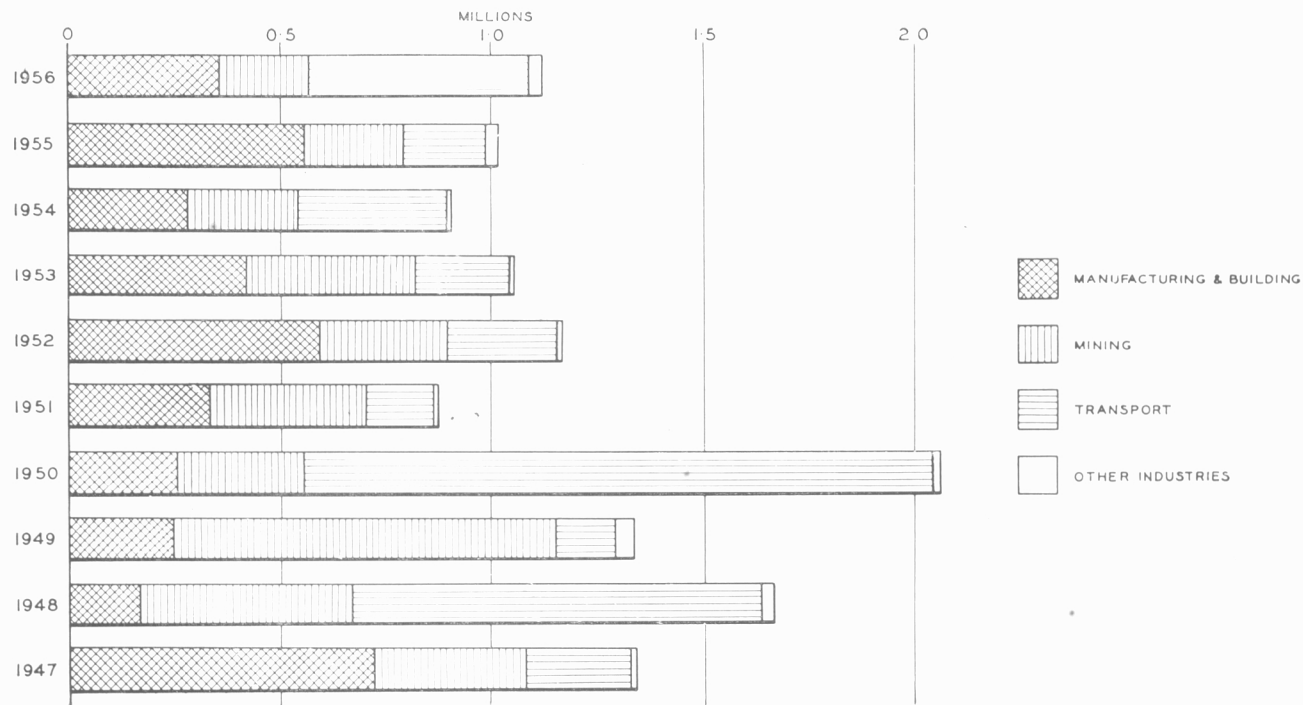
AUSTRALIA, 1948 TO 1957

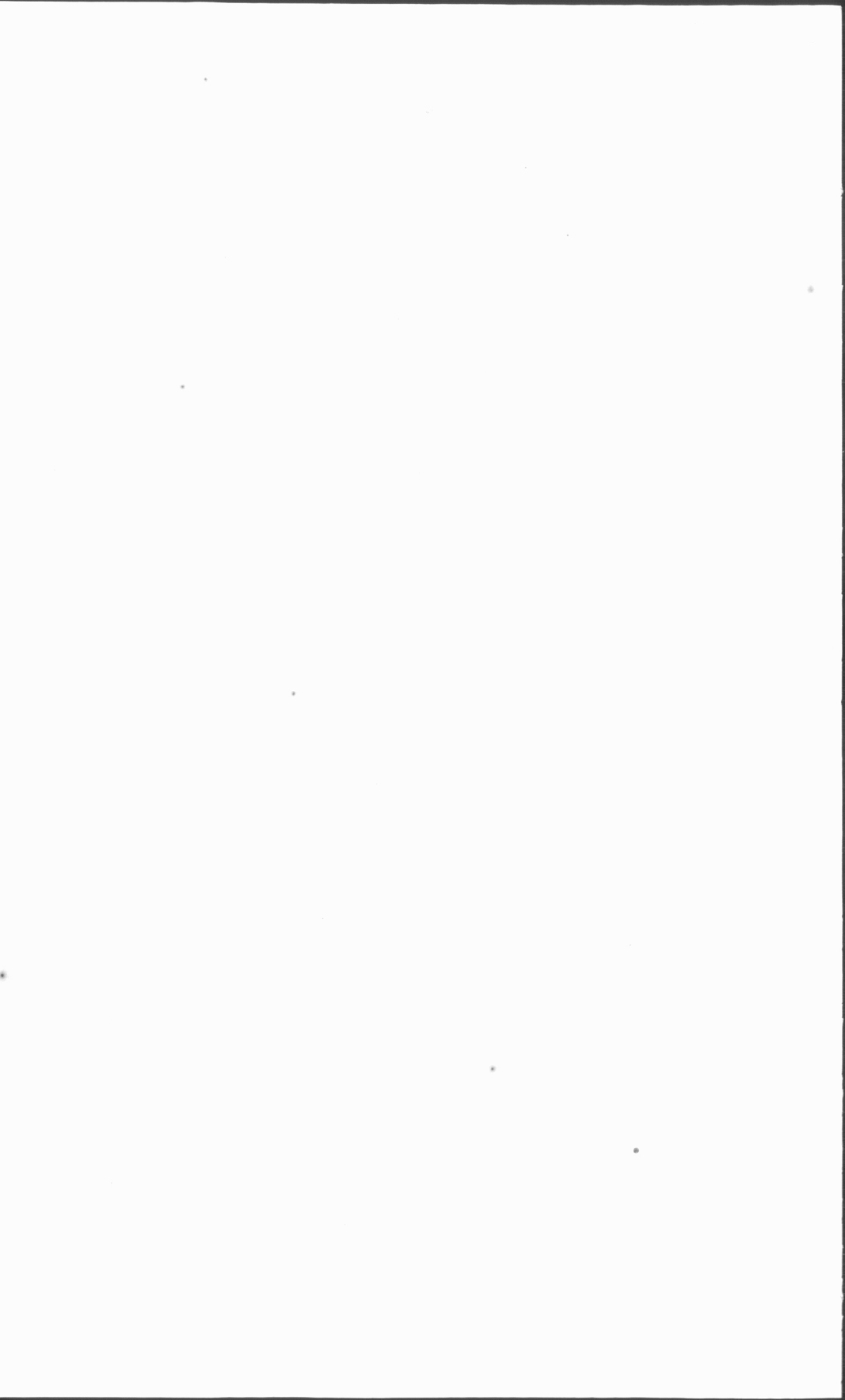


* EXCLUDES RURAL WAGE EARNERS, FEMALE PRIVATE DOMESTICS, PERSONNEL IN DEFENCE FORCES AND NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINEES IN CAMP.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, 1947 TO 1956

WORKING DAYS LOST-INDUSTRIAL GROUPS





The Court took the view that its decision in 1953 to abandon the system of quarterly adjustments was clearly right and that "so long as the assessment of the basic wage is made as the highest which the capacity of the economy can sustain, the automatic adjustment of that basic wage upon price index numbers cannot be justified, since movements in the index have no relation to the movements in the capacity of the economy". The Court was satisfied "that a basic wage assessed at the highest amount which the economy can afford to pay cannot in any way be arrived at on the current price of listed commodities. There is simply no relationship between the two methods of assessment."

"The Court's examination of the economy and of its indicators—employment, investment, production and productivity, overseas trade, overseas balances, the competitive position of secondary industry and retail trade and its consideration of inflation and its possible disastrous extension has led to the Court's conclusion that the nation now has not the capacity to pay a basic wage of the amount to which automatic quarterly adjustments would have brought it."

As far as the application for the abolition of the 3s. country differential was concerned, the Court stated: "The onus lies on a party seeking a change of present prescription to establish its case. The Court holds that the present claim for abolition of the country differential of 3s. has not been made out of the evidence and submissions presented to the Court and the claim is rejected."

In the course of setting out the reasons for its decision the Court considered the period over which the capacity of the economy should be assessed, and concluded: "A year has been found almost universally to be a sensible and practicable period for such a purpose in the case of trading institutions the world over. The Court considers—fortified by the Judges' experience of considering from time to time Australia's capacity—that a yearly assessment of the capacity of Australia for the purpose of fixing a basic wage would be most appropriate. We would encourage any steps to have the Court fulfil such a task each year."

(xi) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1956–57.—Following a summons filed on 26th October, 1956 by the Amalgamated Engineering Union and others, the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in Presidential Session (consisting of Kirby C.J., Wright and Ashburner J.J.) on 13th November, 1956 commenced to hear claims for alteration of the basic wage prescribed in the Metal Trades Award. The claims made were as follows:—

1. "For the increase of the basic wage in all its manifestations to the amount it would have reached if there had remained in the award provisions for automatic quarterly adjustments which had been deleted in September, 1953,"

2. "For the re-insertion in the award of the provisions for the automatic quarterly adjustment of the basic wage"

In accordance with past practice this application in respect of the Metal Trades Award was treated by the Commission as a general application for alteration of the basic wage in all Federal awards.

By leave of the Commission the Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations intervened in support of the applicant unions.

The claims of the unions were opposed by the respondent employers. Victoria and South Australia were the only States to appear before the Commission. The Attorney-General of the Commonwealth intervened in the public interest under section 36 (1) of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

The State of South Australia opposed the unions' claims and suggested that if, contrary to that State's opposition, an increase in the basic wage were prescribed, the Commission should first decide upon the increase to be added to the six capitals basic wage and then apportion that increase amongst the six capital cities on a basis accurately reflecting the differences in cost of living in the different cities.

The State of Victoria neither supported nor opposed the application by the unions and during the hearing, at the request of counsel for the employers, submitted statistics relating to Victorian State Government Departments and Instrumentalities.

The Attorney-General of the Commonwealth intervened in the public interest but the only issue on which his counsel made a positive submission was the application for the restoration of the automatic adjustment system. The Commonwealth opposed such a system whatever index were used. The Commonwealth did not make any submission in regard to the amount of the basic wage. However, counsel for the Commonwealth, after supplying information on all aspects of the national economy, made this general statement: "It is submitted that it remains true that any steps that would lead to a general increase in the level of demand and of the level of costs and prices would run counter to the best interests of the Australian economy at the present time". The Commonwealth also proposed that the Commission should, in the absence of an adjustment system, undertake an annual review of the basic wage.

The Commission decided that before it could reach a decision it would have to examine, in detail, three main issues, namely, (i) should the system of automatic adjustment be restored? (ii) should there be an increase in the basic wage and, if so, of what amount? and, (iii) should the increase, if there be one, be of a uniform amount, or should it be variable as between capital cities?

(i) *Should the System of Automatic Adjustment Be Restored?*—The Commission set out the reasons why the Court in 1953 repealed the provisions for automatic quarterly adjustment of the basic wage then contained in awards and orders of the Court. "The Court's decision was primarily based on the view that there is no justification for automatically adjusting in accordance with a price index a wage assessed as the highest that the capacity of the community as a whole can sustain."

Counsel for the unions argued that the Court in 1956 had misdirected itself in holding that in its judgments given before 1953 the Court had been considering the capacity of the economy to bear the monetary wage at the time of making the decisions. He argued from judgments delivered in the period 1931 to 1950 that the Court was dealing with "the capacity of the economy to pay a real wage". The Commission stated that "even if, contrary to the opinion of the Court in 1956, during that period [1931–1950] the Court had been considering the capacity to pay a real wage . . . the fact is that in 1953 and 1956, the issue on those occasions having been expressly raised and fought, the Court held that capacity to pay cannot be measured by a price index".

The argument of the unions' counsel continued "that it is a 'plain and inevitable principle' that the capacity of the community to pay wages alters with the general level of prices and that the "C" Series index approximately measures the general level of prices and therefore approximately measures the capacity of the economy to pay".

The Commission rejected both sections of the unions' argument and the claim for restoration of automatic quarterly adjustments was refused.

(ii) *Should there be an Increase in the Basic Wage and, if so, of what Amount?* The Commission reaffirmed the principles used to determine the basic wage in the 1953 and 1956 judgments of the Court and accepted as correct the decision of the Court in 1956 to increase the then existing basic wages by 10s. This led the Commission to a comparison of the state of the national economy at the time of the 1956 basic wage inquiry and the current inquiry.

The Commission stated that "In assessing the highest basic wage that the community could afford to pay to employees covered by federal awards, account has been taken of the fact that somewhere about half the wage earners in Australia are entitled under State awards to a basic wage, not fixed in relation to the capacity of the community to pay"

The Commission considered all aspects of the economy and in particular the indicators of overseas reserves, overseas balances, rural industries, production and productivity other than rural, investment including company profits, competitive position of secondary industry, employment, retail trade, the presently relaxed policy of import restrictions and the reasons of the government for such relaxation, and above all the change for the better in Australia's trading position and her strengthened reserves and decided that the basic wages in federal awards should be increased.

The Commission decided that the increase to the six capital cities basic wage should be 10s. a week for adult males.

(iii) *Should the Increase be of a Uniform Amount?*—The historical background of differential rates of basic wage for respective cities and towns was examined by the Commission and it acknowledged that the Federal basic wage had two components: the first and greater component differs for each capital city and is based on the "C" Series retail price index numbers for the June quarter, 1953, and the second component, common to all places, is the uniform 10s. awarded by the Court in 1956.

On the question of whether the increase should be of a uniform amount the alternatives open to the Commission appeared to be "either to follow what the Court did in 1956, or to recalculate the inter-capital-city differentials of the newly-fixed standard basic wage according to the latest "C" Series index numbers". The Commission decided to grant an increase of a uniform amount, and stated, "The immediate reason impelling the Commission to its decision is the evidence given in these proceedings by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician, in the course of which he expressed emphatically the opinion that the relative levels of living costs in Australian capital cities are not, and cannot be, measured by retail price index numbers in current circumstances; also that changes in relative living costs in this sense are a matter for consideration quite apart from retail price index numbers, at the same time conceding that some of the price index data could assist materially in measuring relative levels of living costs in Australian capital cities."

In the judgment delivered on 29th April, 1957 the Commission rejected the claims made by the unions and granted a uniform increase of 10s. a week in the basic wage for adult males to come into effect from the first pay-period to commence on or after 15th May, 1957. As a result of this decision the basic wage for adult females was increased by 7s. 6d. with proportionate increases for juniors of both sexes and for apprentices. The Commission also advised that it approved an annual review of the basic wage and would be available for this purpose in February, 1958. However, although favouring an annual review of the basic wage, the Commission did not consider that "it would be proper for it, nor would it wish, to curtail the existing right of disputants to make an application at whatever time they think it necessary to do so".

(xii) *Rates Operative, Principal Towns.*—The “basic” wage rates of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission for adult males and females, operative in the principal towns of Australia as from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing on or after 15th May, 1957, are shown in the following table:—

COMMONWEALTH BASIC WAGE: WEEKLY RATES (a), MAY, 1957.

City or Town.	Rate of Wage.		City or Town.	Rate of Wage.	
	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.
	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
New South Wales—			Western Australia—		
Sydney	263 0	197 0	Perth	256 0	192 0
Newcastle ..	263 0	197 0	Kalgoorlie ..	263 0	197 0
Port Kembla-Wollongong ..	263 0	197 0	Geraldton ..	269 0	201 6
Broken Hill ..	267 0	200 0	Five Towns (b) ..	257 0	192 6
Five Towns (b) ..	262 0	196 6	Tasmania—		
Victoria—			Hobart	262 0	196 6
Melbourne ..	255 0	191 0	Launceston ..	258 0	193 6
Geelong	255 0	191 0	Queenstown ..	253 0	189 6
Warrnambool ..	255 0	191 0	Five Towns (b) ..	260 0	195 0
Mildura	255 0	191 0	Thirty Towns (b) ..	256 0	192 0
Yallourn (c) ..	261 6	196 0	Six Capital Cities (b) ..	256 0	192 0
Five Towns (b) ..	255 0	191 0	Australian Capital Territory—		
Queensland—			Canberra	258 0	193 6
Brisbane	238 0	178 6	Northern Territory (e)—		
Five Towns (b) ..	239 0	178 6	Darwin	275 0	206 0
South Australia—			South of 20th Parallel	262 0	196 6
Adelaide	251 0	188 0			
Whyalla and Iron Knob (d) ..	256 0	192 0			
Five Towns (b) ..	250 0	187 6			

(a) Operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing on or after 15th May, 1957.
 (b) Weighted average. (c) Melbourne rate plus 6s. 6d. for males; 75 per cent. of male rate for females.
 (d) Adelaide rate plus 5s. for males; 75 per cent. of male rate for females. (e) See pp. 81 and 83 regarding special loadings.

The rate for provincial towns, other than those mentioned above, is 3s. less than that for their respective capital cities.

The rate for adult females is 75 per cent. of the male rate.

A table of basic wage rates from 1923 to 1957 will be found in Section VI. of the Appendix.

3. **Basic Wage Rates for Females.**—(i) *General.*—In its judgment of 17th April, 1934, wherein the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration laid down the basis of its “needs” basic wage for adult males, the Court made the following statement in regard to the female rate:—

“The Court does not think it necessary or desirable, at any rate at the present time, to declare any wage as a basic wage for female employees. Generally speaking they carry no family responsibilities. The minimum wage should, of course, never be too low for the reasonable needs of the employee, but those needs may vary in different industries. In the variations now to be made the proportion in each award of the minimum wage for females to that of males will be preserved.”

The previous practice of the Court was therefore continued whereby each judge granted such proportion of the male rate as he deemed suited to the nature of the industry and the general circumstances of the case. Generally speaking, this proportion was in the vicinity of 54 per cent. of the male rate, although in some cases the proportion was about 56 per cent.

Until 1942 this continued to be substantially the practice of all Commonwealth and State industrial tribunals and in the main its continuance was then made mandatory by Part V. of the National Security (Economic Organization) Regulations which "pegged" as at 10th February, 1942, all rates of remuneration previously prevailing in any employment. The only exceptions allowed were variations to rectify anomalies, variations resultant from hearings pending prior to 10th February, 1942 and "cost of living" variations.

In March, 1942, however, special action was taken to constitute a Women's Employment Board in conjunction with measures to encourage women to undertake, in war-time, work which would normally have been performed by men. This Board was given special jurisdiction to determine terms and conditions of such employment. The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and State Industrial Tribunals continued to determine rates of pay, etc., of women engaged in what may broadly be described as "women's work" in the pre-war sense, while the jurisdiction of the Women's Employment Board was made to cover women engaged during the war in work formerly performed by men or in new work which immediately prior to the outbreak of the war was not performed in Australia by any person.

In July, 1944, National Security (Female Minimum Rates) Regulations authorized the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to make comprehensive investigations (a) as to whether minimum rates of wage payable to females in industries considered by the Government to be necessary for war purposes were unreasonably low in comparison with minimum rates payable to females in other essential industries, (b) if so, as to whether it was in the national interest, and fair and just, to increase such rates, and (c) as to the amount of such increases. Determinations could be made for any period specified by the Court but not extending beyond six months after the end of the war. In making such determinations the Court was not bound by Part V. of the National Security (Economic Organization) Regulations, although such regulations applied to the new rates after determination. The objective of the National Security (Female Minimum Rates) Regulations was to remove disparities which were creating discontent and impeding the manpower authority in redistributing female labour to vital industries. This review commenced in the Court on 23rd February, 1945 and ended on 23rd March, judgment being reserved.

Judgment was delivered by the Full Court on 4th May, 1945,* to the effect that, in regard to (a) above, the majority of the Full Court (Piper C.J., O'Mara and Kelly JJ.) found itself unable to declare that the rates in the "referred"† industries were unreasonably low compared with those in the three industries submitted by the Crown and the union representatives as the standard rates for comparison, namely, those of the Clothing, Rubber and Metal industries, and that there was consequently no necessity to answer question (b). In a minority judgment, Drake-Brockman and Foster JJ. answered (a) and (b) in the affirmative.

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 54, p. 613.
by the Government for consideration.

† Twelve vital industries were "referred"

Following this negative result, the Government, by National Security (Female Minimum Rates) Regulations (S.R., 1945, No. 139) dated 13th August, 1945, provided in respect of "vital" industries specified by the Minister by notice published in the *Gazette* that the remuneration of females employed therein should not be less than 75 per cent. of the corresponding minimum male rate. The validity of this Regulation was challenged in the High Court by Australian Textiles Pty. Ltd., but in a judgment dated 3rd December, 1945 the Court (Starke *J.* dissenting) held that the Regulations were a valid exercise of the powers under the National Security Act 1939–1943. The rates under this Regulation commenced to operate from 31st August, 1945.

As from 12th October, 1944, the Women's Employment Board was abolished and the Chairman of the Board (A. W. Foster) was made a judge of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. The function of the Board under the Women's Employment Act then devolved upon the Court as constituted by a judge designated by the Chief Judge. (*See* S.R. 1944, No. 149.)

The following sub-sections give a brief account of the functions allotted to and of the principles followed by the Women's Employment Board, and a summary of an important judgment delivered by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in 1943 stating the principles followed by the Court in fixing the basic rates payable to female workers and the difference between the rates payable to the women engaged in "women's work" and those payable to the special group of women engaged in "men's work" in war-time under the jurisdiction of the Women's Employment Board. The judgment also dealt with the question of anomalies as between the rates payable to the two classes of women workers.

(ii) *Women's Employment Board*.—The functions of the Women's Employment Board were specified by the Women's Employment Act 1942.* The purpose of the Act as expressed in the title was "to encourage and regulate the employment of women for the purpose of aiding the prosecution of the present war". The jurisdiction of the Board was limited to females employed (after 2nd March, 1942) on work usually performed by males or which, immediately prior to the outbreak of the war, was not performed in Australia by any person.

The functions of the Board briefly were to decide what work and what female workers came within its jurisdiction (as defined) and the terms and conditions upon which women might be so employed including hours and special conditions as to safety, welfare and health. The Board was required to fix rates of payment for such women with regard to their efficiency and productivity in relation to that of males engaged in such work and the Regulations provided that payment to females (engaged on "men's work") should be not less than 60 per cent. nor more than 100 per cent. of the male rate.

The Board ceased to function in 1944 but the Women's Employment Regulations continued to operate until 1949, when, by a judgment of the High Court, such continuation was declared invalid. A summary of the activities of the Board during its period of operation was given in previous issues of the Labour Report (*see* No. 36, page 84).

* The Board was originally created under regulations under the National Security Act 1939–1940, dated 25th March, 1942 (Statutory Rules 1942, No. 146), but owing to the disallowance of such regulations by the Senate on 23rd September, 1942, the Board operated as from 6th October, 1942, under the Women's Employment Act, No. 55 of 1942, which validated all previous decisions, etc., of the first Board (gazetted on 11th June, 1942). The second Board was created on 10th November, 1942.

(iii) *Judgment by Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.*—On 24th March, 1943, a case involving determination of general principles as to rates of wage of female employees not within the jurisdiction of the Women's Employment Board was remitted to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration by the Minister for Labour and National Service under Regulation 9 of the National Security (Industrial Peace) Regulations, particularly as affecting female workers at Government small arms ammunition factories. The rates in these cases were considered by their trade union to be anomalous compared with those awarded by the Women's Employment Board to certain other women employed in those factories. The Court, in its judgment dated 17th June, 1943,* rejected the contentions of the union (The Arms, Explosives and Munition Workers Federation of Australia) and enunciated in full the principles followed by the Court in determining female rates of wage within its jurisdiction.

In order to place the matter in perspective in its relation to the basic wage for males, the Court traced the history of the principles on which the basic wage for males was determined from its original declaration by Mr. Justice Higgins in his "Harvester" judgment of 1907 (*see* page 56) and continued—

"Although since 1930, when the 'economic or productivity factor' emerged as the 'dominant factor' in the problem of assessment (of the basic wage of adult male employees), the adequacy of the wage to meet the requirements of any 'specified family unit' has been only a subsidiary consideration, subsidiary that is to say to the question of the capacity of the national production to sustain a particular wage level, it is plain that the Court has not held that its basic wage has been fixed at too low a figure to meet the normal and reasonable needs of a family of husband, wife and at least one child. Nor has its adequacy to that extent been questioned. In this sense it can still be regarded as a family wage, inasmuch as it has been accepted as sufficient at all events to provide 'frugal comfort' for a man, his wife and at least one dependent child. For present purposes it is enough to say that, until a proper investigation demonstrates the contrary to be the case, we cannot but hold that the amount provided is more than sufficient to meet the normal and reasonable requirements of an unmarried worker with no dependants to support out of his earnings. And the same may be said of the living or basic wages determined by authorities functioning under State legislation as appropriate for male employees within their jurisdiction. The method of assessment of wage rates for adult male workers adopted and followed by industrial authorities throughout Australia has been to fix a basic wage portion adequate for the estimated needs of some family group and to add to that some additional payment in recognition of the skill or experience possessed by the worker or the special conditions met with in his particular occupation. The basic wage portion has had no reference to work value; it has been assessed in accordance with needs and it has never been either held or suggested to be inadequate to meet the normal and reasonable needs not only of the worker himself but also of his wife and at least one dependent child."

The Court in its judgment then set out decisions arrived at by various Commonwealth and State Courts since 1912, when the Commonwealth Court first dealt directly with the problem of women's wages. Mr. Justice Higgins dealt with the case, and stated "I fixed the minimum in 1907 of 7s. per day by

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 50, p. 191.

finding the sum which would meet the normal needs of an average employee, one of his normal needs being the need for domestic life. If he has a wife and children, he is under an obligation—even a legal obligation—to maintain them. How is such a minimum applicable to the case of a woman . . . ? She is not, unless perhaps in very exceptional circumstance, under any such obligation. The minimum cannot be based on exceptional cases.”

In respect of the “minimum rate” enjoined by the Commonwealth Arbitration Act, he held that “Nothing is clearer than that the ‘minimum rate’ referred to in Section 40 means the minimum rate for a class of workers, those who do work of a certain character. If blacksmiths are the class of workers, the minimum rate must be such as recognizes that blacksmiths are usually men. If fruit-pickers are the class of workers, the minimum rate must be such as recognizes that, up to the present at least, most of the pickers are men (although women have been usually paid less), and that men and women are fairly in competition as to that class of work. If milliners are the class of workers, the minimum rate must, I think, be such as recognizes that all or nearly all milliners are women, and that men are not usually in competition with them.”*

In its review the Court stated “the fixation of the basic wage for women at amounts below 60 per cent. of that fixed for men has been general in the awards and determination of this Court and other industrial authorities of Australia”.

The Court laid down general principles in the following words:—

“It is beyond question that the general rule adopted and followed by the Australian industrial authorities in the assessment of wages for adult women workers, engaged upon work suitable for women in which they cannot fairly be said to be in competition with men for employment, has been and still is to fix a foundational amount, calculated with reference to the needs of a single woman who has to pay for her board and lodging, has to maintain herself out of her earnings, but has no dependants to support; and to add to this foundational or basic amount such marginal amounts as may be appropriate in recognition of the particular skill or experience of the particular workers in question or as compensation for the particular conditions which they encounter in their occupations

“Just as the wages for male workers are assessed by adopting first a foundational wage—the basic wage—and adding to it marginal amounts fixed according to the relative skill and experience of particular workers or groups of workers, or to the special conditions they encounter, so too are women’s wages, for work suitable to them in which they will not be disadvantaged by male competition, fixed by adding to a foundational or basic amount analogous margins. But in each case the foundational wage is in principle and justice different. The man’s basic wage is more than sufficient for his personal needs; it purports to provide him with enough to support some family. The women’s, on the other hand, purports to be enough for her to maintain herself only. No allowance is made for the support of any dependants. The men’s wage has been measured by this Court with reference to the dominating factor of the productive capacity of industry to sustain it and with due regard consequently to what its application in industry will mean, to the marginal structure which rises above it, and to the consequent wages which will in accordance with established rules and practice be paid to women and to minors.

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 6, p. 72.

"In the course of the hearing the Chief Judge drew attention to the necessity which would occur, if women's rates were to be assessed on the basis that relative efficiency and productivity (as between men and women) were to constitute the dominant factor, for a review of the principles in accordance with which the basic wage has been determined. That this necessity would arise must be apparent. For the basic wage for adult males has been fixed at as high an amount as the Court has thought practicable in all the circumstance of the case, including the circumstances of the existing proportionate levels of wages for women and minors. The share of men workers in the fruits of production will need to be reduced if women are to participate therein on an equal footing, or on a better footing generally than that to which they have hitherto been held to be entitled.

"It is desirable that we should indicate as clearly as possible the effect of the conclusions to which the review of the principles of wage assessment we have made has led us. It is that, so long as the foundational or basic wage for women is assessed according to a standard different from that which is the basis of the foundational or basic wage—a family wage—for men, the Court will not, in the exercise of its function of adjudicating between opposing interests, raise the general level of women's minimum wages in occupations suitable for women, and in which they do not encounter considerable competition from men, according to a comparison of their efficiency and productivity with the efficiency and productivity of men doing substantially similar work. To do so would at once depress the relative standard of living of the family as a group, and of its individual members, as compared with that of the typical single woman wage-earner."*

In December, 1943,† *Drake-Brockman J.* of this Court, in dealing with women employees in the Clothing (Dressmaking and Tailoring Sections) and Rubber industries, awarded for the duration of the war and for six months thereafter as a "flat rate" for the industry 75 per cent. of the "needs" basic wage, plus the "prosperity" and "industry" loadings ordinarily applicable. The reason for this action was (in the words of the judgment) as follows: "it was also common ground [between all the parties] that wastage of the employees in the industry during the last three years had been exceptionally heavy and that it was essential that some means should be found to attract women to the industry and thereafter to retain them for some reasonable period of time after they had been trained."

In July, 1944, the National Security (Female Minimum Wage) Regulations extended the discretion of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in fixing female minimum wage rates in "vital" industries in war-time as briefly described on page 73.

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1947 (*see Labour Report No. 37, page 50*) provided amongst other things that "a Conciliation Commissioner shall not be empowered to make an order or award altering . . . (d) the minimum rate of remuneration for adult females in an industry." As the result of doubts which arose as to the powers of the Commissioners to "fix" a basic wage, the matter came before the Full Court of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for clarification at the instance of several trade unions. Judgment was delivered on 27th July, 1948, and it was held that Conciliation Commissioners had jurisdiction to fix the female rates in question under the provisions of the Act, but it was also held that the provision referred only to the basic element in any prescribed female rates. Where, however, such a prescribed rate did not specifically fix

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 50, p. 191.

† 51 C.A.R., pp. 652 and 643.

or disclose the basic wage element, the appropriate Conciliation Commissioner had to fix the rate, and when such rate had been fixed its alteration became a matter for the Court. In view of the fact that there were fifteen Commissioners whose views might differ as to the element of the rates of pay of adult females which could be ascribed to an adult female basic wage analogous to the basic wage for adult males, the Government in December, 1948 passed an Act (No. 77 of 1948) further amending the above-mentioned Act to authorize the Court—and the Court alone—to fix the basic rate by providing that “a Conciliation Commissioner shall not be empowered to make an order or award . . . (d) determining or altering the minimum rate of remuneration for adult females in an industry.”

A further amending Act (No. 86 of 1949) empowered the Court to determine or alter a “basic wage for adult females” which was defined as “that wage, or that part of a wage, which is just and reasonable for an adult female, without regard to any circumstance pertaining to the work upon which, or the industry in which, she is employed.”

At the end of the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 60) the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration by a majority decision fixed a new basic weekly wage for adult females at 75 per cent. of the corresponding male rate operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950.

In the 1952–53 Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry the employers claimed a reduction in the proportion the female basic wage bore to the male basic wage from 75 to 60 per cent. and based this claim on two grounds. The employers claimed that the existing ratio was unjust and unreasonable having regard to the principles of male basic wage fixation and also that the existing ratio constituted an additional burden on employers at a time when the economy was adversely affected by the level of wage costs. The first contention was based on the fact that the male basic wage was a family wage, whereas the female basic wage was to provide for only one person. The Court in its judgment stated that “no evidence was presented to enable it to assess the reasonable needs either of a family group, typical, average or appropriate or of a typical or average woman wage-earner whose wage should be within the concept of the definition of ‘basic wage’ in section 25”* (of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act).

On the second contention, the judgment stated that “the Court finds it impossible to say that the higher ratio of the women’s basic wage to the men’s, adopted by the 1950 decision, has resulted to date in either a significant degree of unemployment amongst women or, generally speaking, a comparatively greater wages cost burden having to be carried, at the expense of reasonable profits, by enterprises employing a relatively higher proportion of women workers.”* The Court decided that there was no basis for a review of the existing ratio and ordered that the female basic wage should remain at 75 per cent. of the male basic wage.

4. Australian Territories.—(i) *Australian Capital Territory.*—Prior to 1922 the lowest rate payable to an unskilled labourer was not defined as a basic wage, as all wages were paid under the authority of the Federal Capital Commission as a lump sum for the particular occupation in which the worker was employed, but in 1922 an Industrial Board commenced to operate under a local Ordinance (*see* page 33). A summary of the decisions made by the Industrial Board during its period of operation was given in earlier issues of the Labour Report (*see* No. 40, page 89).

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 77, p. 504.

By an amending Ordinance, No. 4 of 1949, the Industrial Board was abolished and its functions transferred to the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Court, which assigned a Conciliation Commissioner to the Australian Capital Territory. It was provided, however, that all orders and agreements in existence should continue to operate subject to later orders, awards and determinations made by the Court.

An amendment to the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, operative from 30th June, 1956, transferred the respective functions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Court to the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission and the Commonwealth Industrial Court. The Conciliation Commissioner mentioned above, under the amended legislation, became the Commissioner for the Australian Capital Territory.

In reviewing the Australian Capital Territory awards following its decision of 12th October, 1950, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration fixed the Canberra basic wage at £8 5s. a week for adult males, operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950.* This amount was the "needs" basic wage as expressed by the Court's Second Series index number for Canberra for the September quarter, 1950, with the prescribed addition of £1 5s. The new rate represented an increase of 13s. 6d. a week over that previously payable.

Until August, 1953 the basic wage for the Australian Capital Territory was varied each quarter in accordance with movements in the "C" Series retail price index numbers. However, following a decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to delete automatic adjustment clauses from its awards, etc. (see page 62), the basic wage for the Australian Capital Territory remained unchanged from August, 1953 until June, 1956, when an increase of 10s. became payable for adult males. A further increase of 10s. was granted in the adult male basic wage payable as from the first pay-period on or after 15th May, 1957. The basic wage for the Australian Capital Territory, under awards of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, payable as from the first pay-period on or after 15th May, 1957, was £12 18s. for adult males and £9 13s. 6d. for adult females.

(ii) *Northern Territory*.—The determination of the basic wage for this Territory comes within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

There are, in fact, two basic wages operating—(a) in respect of areas north of the 20th parallel of south latitude, and generally referred to as the "Darwin" rate, and (b) in respect of areas south of that parallel. These are calculated on different bases as set out in the following paragraphs.

(a) *The Darwin Basic Wage*.—This wage was first determined by the Court in 1915† when the Deputy President (Powers J.) awarded a rate of £3 17s. a week, or 1s. 9d. an hour, for an unskilled labourer, which included a weekly allowance of 4s. for lost time.

The basic wage level again came under consideration when the wage for carpenters and joiners was reviewed by Mr. Justice Powers in 1916–17.‡ The Judge referred to an agreement dated 2nd June, 1916, between the Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners and the Northern Agency (formerly Vestey Brothers), which provided for rates based on a budget of the estimated living requirements of a family consisting of a man, wife and two dependent children, amounting to £3 11s. 1d. a week. As the amount awarded (2s. 4d. an hour) for carpenters, however, was over £5 a week, the Judge felt that a fair living wage was fully

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 69, p. 486.

† *C.A.R.*, p. 1.

‡ 11 *C.A.R.*, p. 51.

assured. His Honor stated that he did not find anything to cause him to alter the judgment given on 15th March, 1915, when he prescribed a wage of 1s. 9d. an hour.

Up till 1924 the practice of the Court had been to fix the basic wage in accordance with the principles laid down in 1916, and in connexion with an application in 1924 concerning the rate for employees of the Commonwealth Railways, when the wage for these workers stood at £5 4s. 6d., the Judge (Powers J.) refused to alter the wage. He stated that he had in mind the amount of £4 12s., to which he would have felt justified in adding £1 to compensate for the many disadvantages caused by isolation, especially the loss of or extra expense of the proper education of the children. He considered, therefore, that the wage of £5 4s. 6d. then payable contained a special allowance on such account, and that the question of such special allowances was a matter for employers and employees to settle between themselves.*

In 1927† Judge Beeby also referred to the regimen of 1916, and implied that since then it had formed the foundation of the basic wages fixed by the Court, and that the sufficiency of the regimen, except as to rent and one or two minor omissions, had never been questioned. On this occasion he fixed the basic wage at £5 10s. a week, or 2s. 6d. an hour, including 20s. a week district allowance which was suggested by Mr. Justice Powers in his 1924 award as being a reasonable amount.

As there was no adjustment clause in operation in Territory awards, the basic wage of £5 10s. a week remained in operation until 1934 (except for the reduction by the Financial Emergency Act 1931 to £4 16s. 3d.).

In 1934‡ the Full Court for the first time considered the basic wage. The Court brought the regimen of the 1916 agreement up to date, altered the rent figure from 45s. to 65s. a month, and arrived at the amount of £4 10s. 9d. a week. This was £1 4s. 9d. above the Court's "needs" basic wage recently declared for the six capital cities, the Court regarding the difference as representing the extra amount required to purchase the same standard of living as in the six capital cities, with nothing by way of compensation allowance. Automatic adjustment provisions first introduced into the awards by this judgment were effected by inserting an appropriate adjustment scale based on the equation of £4 10s. 9d. to the Food and Groceries retail price index number (Special) 1,184 for Darwin for the month of August, 1934.

In 1938§ the Court granted a "loading" of 3s. a week on the wage because the Commonwealth Government had extended to the Territory its general civil service increase of £8 per annum.

In 1939 an additional amount was added to the basic wage as a special loading to offset the increase in the cost of living not reflected by the index numbers. The loading was 16s. 3d. for employees on works and 10s. for railway employees.|| In February, 1940, before an automatic adjustment increase of 2s. became payable, the Court suspended the adjustment clause pending further inquiry.¶

In 1941** the Full Court again reviewed the basic wage and, after a full investigation of its past history, awarded £5 12s. 9d., made up of (a) £4 10s. 9d. awarded in 1934; (b) 4s. in respect of accrued adjustments since 1939; (c) 5s. additional allowance for rent; and (d) two constant (unadjustable) "loadings" of 3s. and 10s. a week. The Court also restored the adjustment clause by equating £4 15s. 9d. of the foregoing amounts (£4 10s. 9d. plus 5s. rent) to the

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 20, p. 737.

p. 944. § 39 C.A.R., p. 501.

** 44 C.A.R., p. 253.

† 25 C.A.R., p. 898.

|| 40 C.A.R., p. 323 and 41 C.A.R., p. 269.

‡ 33 C.A.R.,

¶ 42 C.A.R.,

base index 1,184 of the former adjustment scale (based solely on the Food and Groceries price index number). This, however, never became effective, because it was superseded early in 1942 by the Blakely Orders referred to below. The two "loadings" were not made adjustable. All other "loadings" mentioned above were dropped.

The basis of adjustment was altered by A. Blakeley, C.C., by Orders dated 29th January, 1942,* owing to the urgent necessity to provide, over the period of the war, for adjustments in respect of rent, clothing and other miscellaneous items of domestic expenditure which, with the exception of rent, had already increased considerably in price throughout Australia, and threatened to increase further as the war continued. Adjustment by means only of the Food and Groceries Index was therefore no longer doing justice to the workers of the Territory, since the workers elsewhere in Australia were enjoying the benefit derived from the adjustment of their wages by means of the more comprehensive "C" Series retail price index.

As there was no "C" Series retail price index for the Territory, nor was it possible to compile one on the basis of prices in Darwin, the only alternative was to create a "composite" index with the help of prices for these additional items from some other town of somewhat similar living conditions. The town selected as being most suitable for this purpose was Townsville, and the "composite" index was therefore computed on the basis of food and groceries prices in Darwin, combined with Townsville prices for rent, clothing and other miscellaneous items of domestic expenditure mentioned above, the index being designated "The Darwin Special 'All Items' Index".

Taking the December quarter, 1940, as a suitable period upon which adjustments should be based, for which quarter the Special "All Items" index number was 1,036, the Court's basic wage of £4 19s. 9d. (including 4s. for accrued adjustments) declared in its judgment of 7th April, 1941† was related (not "equated") to the index number division (1031-1043) containing index number 1,036 of the "C" Series adjustment scale formerly used by the Court in its awards (Base: $1923-27 = 1,000 = 81s.$), thus giving workers in the Territory the same basis of adjustment as that operating in respect of all workers throughout Australia coming within the jurisdiction of the Court. It should be noted in this connexion that the Court's "needs" equivalent of index number 1,036 was 84s., so that 15s. 9d. of the Darwin wage was left "unadjustable". The rate payable from 1st February, 1942 (when the new basis first became operative), on the basis of index number 1,099 for the December, quarter, 1941, was therefore £5 17s. 9d., inclusive of 5s. by adjustments under the scale since the December quarter, 1940 (1,036), and the two unadjustable "loadings" of 3s. and 10s. granted by the Court's judgment of 7th April, 1941.

Following the bombing of Darwin on 19th February, 1942, and on subsequent occasions, it was no longer possible to obtain even food and groceries prices in Darwin, and a system was introduced by which food and grocery prices in the Special Index for Darwin were varied in accordance with fluctuations in food and grocery prices in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek.‡

On an application by the unions for the addition to the basic wage in the Territory of the amount of 7s. a week added by the Court elsewhere in Australia by its "Interim" Basic Wage Judgment of 13th December, 1946 [see page 59, (vii)], the Full Court on 13th March, 1947, decided to postpone the matter pending a general review of the basic wage in the Territory, although the Court granted the amount in the case of areas south of the 20th parallel

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 46, p. 411.
p. 20.

† 44 C.A.R., p. 253.

‡ 48 C.A.R.

of south latitude (*see* below). This further review was opened in Darwin with preliminary evidence taken by J. H. Portus, C.C., on 16th February, 1948, and ultimately dealt with by the Full Court in Adelaide on 20th May, 1948. The Court made an "interim" judgment, pending the hearing and finalization of the basic wage inquiry held in 1949–50 at the instance of the combined unions throughout Australia [*see* page 60, (viii)], granting the current equivalent of the 7s. referred to above, namely, 8s. In the judgment the Court adopted as from the March quarter, 1948, the new Darwin Special "All Items" Index (containing the restored prices of food and groceries for Darwin proper, plus Townsville prices for rent, clothing and miscellaneous items), namely, 1,283, and transferred the basis of adjustment from the existing automatic adjustment scale ("C" Series) on 1,000 = 81s. a week to the new scale on 1,000 = 87s. a week [in conformity with the "Court" Index (2nd Series)]. The new basic wage was to come into operation from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing after 20th May, 1948. The resultant total basic wage payable was therefore £7 0s. 9d., made up of £5 12s. (the "needs" equivalent of index number 1,283 mentioned above), the "unadjustable" amount of 15s. 9d. (*see* page 81) and the loadings of 3s. and 10s.

Consequent upon the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry, an "interim" increase of £1 2s. a week was authorized pending a special inquiry into the fixation of a new basic wage for the Northern Territory.* As a result of the latter inquiry the Court announced, on 19th November, 1951, that it would make an order "based upon the consent and agreement of the parties for a basic wage in the Northern Territory of £10 10s. a week." The new rates were operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in November, 1951. The Darwin Special "All Items" index (*see* above) was retained as the basis for subsequent quarterly adjustments but with the index number of 1824 equated to 200s. a week. Subsequently by decisions of the Conciliation Commissioner a special loading of 10s. a week, operative from the same date as the new basic wage, was added to the wage rates in most awards applicable to that part of the Northern Territory north of the 20th parallel of south latitude. This loading should be taken into account in any analysis or comparison involving the basic wage component of such wage rates.

The basic wage for this area of the Northern Territory has been varied in the same manner as other basic wages determined by the Commonwealth Industrial Tribunal. Since the suspension in September, 1953 of automatic quarterly adjustments based on movements in the "C" Series retail price index numbers, two increases of 10s. payable in June, 1956 and May, 1957, respectively, have been made to the basic wage for adult males. The basic wage payable to an adult male as from the first pay-period on or after 15th May, 1957 was £13 15s.

(b) *Northern Territory (South of the 20th parallel of South Latitude).*—There are two main groups of employees in this area of the Northern Territory, namely, employees of the Commonwealth Railways and employees of the Department of Works (formerly the Works and Services Branch of the Department of the Interior).

Prior to 1937, all employees of Commonwealth Railways, except clerks, were covered by awards of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, but since that year rates of pay for certain occupations have been prescribed by determinations of the Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator.

* 69 C.A.R., p. 836.

It has been the practice of the Court and the Public Service Arbitrator to fix a common base rate for Commonwealth Railways employees (the main centre being Port Augusta) and to provide, by means of "district allowances", additional rates to employees in isolated areas.

Prior to 3rd February, 1935, Commonwealth employees (other than Commonwealth Railways employees) engaged in the Northern Territory south of the 20th parallel of south latitude were paid the Darwin basic wage. The Full Court in a judgment issued on 13th November, 1934,* fixed a rate of 80s. a week for Works and Services employees, which included an amount of 7s. a week to cover the cost of freight on goods purchased from the Railway Stores at Port Augusta. This rate compared with £4 10s. 9d. being paid in areas north of the 20th parallel, and with £3 5s. in Adelaide.

Provision was also made for the adjustment of this wage to be made in the manner provided by the Court for railway employees at Alice Springs, namely, on the basis of the Court's "C" Series adjustment scale in accordance with the variations of the "Special" index number for Port Augusta (inclusive of Railway Stores prices for groceries and dairy produce). Although no base index number was mentioned, it can be taken that the base index number division of the scale ($809-820 = 66s.$) was the starting point of the variations and was related to a total basic wage of £4, as this division contained "C" Series index number 819 (Special) for the September quarter, 1934—from which it will also be observed that only 66s. of the total wage was actually adjustable.

The 3s. a week "loading" granted by the Court in 1938 (*see* page 80) applied to employees located south of the 20th parallel of south latitude as well as to those engaged north thereof.

At a hearing on 12th and 13th March, 1947, the Full Court granted to workers in this area the amount of 7s. a week consequent upon its "Interim" Basic Wage Judgment of 13th December, 1946, as an addition to the "adjustable" part of the basic wage applicable. The questions raised as to a general review of the basic wage in the Territory as a whole were postponed pending the hearing and finalization of the basic wage inquiry held in 1949-50 at the instance of the combined unions of Australia (*see* page 60).

By an Order of 11th October, 1949, the Full Court amended the existing award to provide for the adjustment to date and thereafter (by means of the "C" Series Automatic Adjustment Scale) of the 7s. a week "excess" over the contemporaneous "needs" rate granted by the Full Court on 13th November, 1934 (*see* above). The relevant "Special" "C" Series index number for the latter period (as indicated above) was 819, equivalent to a "needs" wage of £3 6s. a week, and the above adjustment was effected by an additional column to the scale calculated on the basis of raising the weekly "needs" equivalents by the ratio of 73s. to 66s., or by multiplying the successive weekly "needs" rates by the factor 1.10606. Thus, the base rate of the scale $1000 = 87s.$ became 96s.

The Order came into operation from the first Sunday in December, 1949, with the index number for the September quarter, 1949 as the starting point. The "needs" rate for this was £6 1s. which by the above formula became £6 14s., and to this were added the loadings previously payable of 7s. for "Freight Costs" and 3s. for "Prosperity" loading, making a total basic wage of £7 4s., representing an increase of 6s. a week over the basic wage calculated on the former basis.

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 33, p. 947.

Consequent upon the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 60), an “interim” increase of £1 2s. a week was authorized pending a special inquiry into the fixation of a new basic wage for the Northern Territory. As a result of the latter inquiry the Court announced, on 19th November, 1951, that it would make an order “based upon the consent and agreement of the parties for a basic wage in the Northern Territory of £10 10s. per week”. The new rates were operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in November, 1951. The Port Augusta Special “All Items” Index (*see* above) was retained as the basis for subsequent quarterly adjustments but with the index number of 1757 equated to 194s. a week. Subsequently, by decisions of the Conciliation Commissioner, a special loading of 7s. a week operative from the same date as the new basic wage was added to the wage rates in most awards applicable to that part of the Northern Territory south of the 20th parallel of south latitude. This loading should be taken into account in any analysis or comparison involving the basic wage component of such wage rates.

The basic wage for this area of the Northern Territory has been varied in the same manner as other basic wages determined by the Commonwealth Industrial Tribunal. Since the suspension in September, 1953 of automatic quarterly adjustments based on movements in the “C” Series retail price index numbers, two increases of 10s.—one payable in June, 1956 and the other in May, 1957—have been made to the basic wage for adult males. The basic wage payable to an adult male as from the first pay-period on or after 15th May, 1957 was £13 2s.

5. State Basic Wages.—(i) *New South Wales.*—The first determination under the New South Wales Industrial Arbitration Act of a standard “living” wage for adult male employees was made on 16th February, 1914, when the Court of Industrial Arbitration fixed the “living” wage at £2 8s. a week for adult male employees in the metropolitan area. A Board of Trade established in 1918, with power to determine the living wage for adult male and female employees in the State, made numerous declarations during the period 1918 to 1925, but ceased to function after the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act 1926 transferred its powers to the Industrial Commission of New South Wales, as from 15th April, 1926. The Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act 1927 altered the constitution of the Industrial Commission from a single Commissioner to one consisting of three members. Act No. 14 of 1936, however, provided for the appointment of four members and Act No. 36 of 1938 for the appointment of not less than five and not more than six members. The Commission was directed, *inter alia*, “not more frequently than once in every six months to determine a standard of living and to declare . . . the living wage based upon such standard for adult male and female employees in the State.” The Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act 1932 directed the Commission within twenty-eight days from the end of the months of March and September to adjust the living wages so declared to accord with the increased or decreased cost of maintaining the determined standard. The first declaration of the Commission was made on 15th December, 1926, when the rate for adult males was fixed at £4 4s. a week, the same rate as that previously declared by the Board of Trade. The adult male rate was determined on the family unit of a man, wife and two children from 1914 to 1925; a man and wife only in 1927, with family allowances for dependent children; and a man, wife, and one child in 1929, with family allowances for other dependent

children. With the adoption in 1937 of the Commonwealth basic wage, however (*see* below), the identification of a specified family unit with the basic wage disappeared.

Employees in rural industries are not covered by the rates shown in the following table; a living wage for rural workers of £3 6s. a week was in force for twelve months from October, 1921 and a rate of £4 4s. operated from June, 1927 to December, 1929, when the power of industrial tribunals to fix a living wage for rural workers was withdrawn. This power was restored by an amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act made in June, 1951.

The variations in the living wage determined by the industrial tribunals of New South Wales are shown below:—

BASIC WAGE DECLARATIONS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

(State Jurisdiction.)

Male.		Female.	
Date of Declaration.	Basic Wage per Week.	Date of Declaration.	Basic Wage per Week.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
16th February, 1914 ..	2 8 0	..	..
17th December, 1915 ..	2 12 6	..	..
18th August, 1916 ..	2 15 6	..	..
5th September, 1918 ..	3 0 0	17th December, 1918 ..	1 10 0
8th October, 1919 ..	3 17 0	23rd December, 1919 ..	1 19 0
8th October, 1920 ..	4 5 0	23rd December, 1920 ..	2 3 0
8th October, 1921 ..	4 2 0	22nd December, 1921 ..	2 1 0
12th May, 1922 ..	3 18 0	9th October, 1922 ..	1 19 6
10th April, 1923 ..	3 19 0	(a)	2 0 0
7th September, 1923 ..	4 2 0		2 1 6
24th August, 1925 ..	4 4 0		2 2 6
27th June, 1927 ..	4 5 0		2 6 0
20th December, 1929 ..	4 2 6		2 4 6
26th August, 1932 ..	3 10 0		1 18 0
11th April, 1933 ..	3 8 6		1 17 0
20th October, 1933 ..	3 6 6		1 16 0
26th April, 1934 ..	3 7 6		1 16 6
18th April, 1935 ..	3 8 6		1 17 0
24th April, 1936 ..	3 9 0		(b) 1 17 6
27th October, 1936 ..	3 10 0		1 18 0
27th April, 1937 ..	3 11 6(c)		1 18 6

(a) From 1923 dates of declaration were the same as those for male rates. (b) Rate declared, £1 15s. 6d., but law amended to provide a rate for females at 54 per cent. of that for males. (c) From October, 1937 until November, 1955, when automatic quarterly adjustment was reintroduced in New South Wales, the rates followed those of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for New South Wales.

Following on the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of 23rd June, 1937 (*see* page 58), the Government of New South Wales decided to bring the State basic wage into line with the Commonwealth rates ruling in the State, and secured an amendment of the Industrial Arbitration Act (No. 9 of 1937) to give effect thereto. The Act came into operation from the commencement of the first pay-period in October, 1937. The general principles laid down by the Commonwealth Court were followed as closely as practicable and provision was made for the automatic adjustment of wages in conformity with variations of retail prices as shown by the Commonwealth Court's "All Items" retail price index numbers, shortly known as the

“Court” series of index numbers. The Commonwealth Court’s principle of treating the “Prosperity” loadings as a separate and non-adjustable part of the total basic wage was adopted. The rates for country towns were, with certain exceptions, fixed at 3s. a week below the metropolitan rate; and Crown employees, as defined, received a “Prosperity” loading of 5s. a week, as against the 6s. laid down for employees in outside industry. The basic rate for adult females was fixed at 54 per cent. of the adult male rate to the nearest sixpence. The provisions of the main Acts for the periodic declaration of the living wage by the Industrial Commission were repealed, but the amending Act placed on the Commission the responsibility of altering all awards and agreements in conformity with the intentions of the new Act; of defining boundaries within which the various rates are to operate;* and of specifying the appropriate “Court” Series retail price index numbers to which they are to be related.

An amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act was assented to on 23rd November, 1950, which empowered the Industrial Commission to vary the terms of awards and industrial agreements affecting male rates of pay, to the extent to which the Commission thought fit, to give effect to the alteration in the basic wage for adult males made by the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of 12th October, 1950. In the case of female rates of pay the Commission was empowered to review the terms of awards and industrial agreements and to vary such terms as in the circumstances the Commission decided proper, but no variation was to fix rates of pay for female employees lower than the Commonwealth basic wage for adult females.

To facilitate the work of the Commission, awards were divided into separate classes, and orders issued regarding the variations to be made to those in each class. The rates for adult males were increased by the same amounts as the corresponding Commonwealth rates, with special provision to cover the cases of apprentices, casual workers and employees on piecework. In deciding the variation for female employees the Commission prescribed an increase in the total wage rate (i.e., basic wage plus marginal rate) of £1 4s. 6d. a week, subject to the statutory provision (incorporated in the amendment of 23rd November) that the minimum total rate was to be not less than the basic wage for adult females prescribed in Commonwealth awards, that is, at least 75 per cent. of the corresponding male basic wage rate.

In the judgment delivered on 9th March, 1951, giving reasons for its decision on female rates, the Commission decided that the basic wage for adult females prescribed by the Commonwealth Court in reality included a portion “due to secondary considerations,” and could not be considered a “reasonable and proper basic wage for the assessment of rates of female employees under the Industrial Arbitration Act”.

In discussing the composition of the amount of £6 3s. 6d. which the Commonwealth Court, in its judgment of October, 1950, had prescribed as the basic wage for adult females in New South Wales, the Commission stated:—

“After giving the matter fullest consideration, we think in the circumstances it is reasonable to allocate £1 of the said sum of £6 3s. 6d. to secondary considerations and to regard the amount of £1 4s. 6d. as an addition proper to be made to the pre-existing basic wage in New South Wales of £3 19s. The total, £5 3s. 6d., becomes therefore the true female basic wage for Sydney under the State Act”.†

* *New South Wales Industrial Gazette*, Vol. 52, pp. 783-4.
Reports, 1951, p. 16.

† *New South Wales Arbitration*

As a consequence of the overriding statutory requirement that no rate for adult females in State awards shall fall below the Commonwealth basic wage for adult females, the amount of the quarterly adjustments to the female basic wage for changes in the "Court" Series index numbers is the same in Commonwealth and State awards.

By an amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act in June, 1951, the differentiation in rates for the basic wage in different districts and for employees under Crown awards was eliminated as a general rule, making the basic wage throughout most of the State equal to that paid in Sydney, the main exception being the Broken Hill district where a different basic rate still prevails.

The decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in September, 1953 to discontinue the system of automatic adjustment of the basic wage consequent on changes in the "Court" Series retail price index numbers was considered by the New South Wales Industrial Commission. On 23rd October, 1953 the Commission certified that there had been an alteration in the principles upon which the Commonwealth basic wage was computed and ordered the deletion of the automatic adjustment clauses from awards and agreements within its jurisdiction.* In October, 1955, however, the New South Wales Government passed the Industrial Arbitration (Basic Wage) Amendment Act, which required the Registrar of the Industrial Commission to restore, to all awards and agreements within its jurisdiction, quarterly adjustments of the basic wage consequent on variations in retail price index numbers. Subsequently the basic wage was adjusted as from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in November, 1955, when the rates for the State, excluding Broken Hill, became £12 13s. for adult males and £9 9s. 6d. for adult females.

The new rate of £12 13s. a week for adult males was an increase of 10s. on the rate previously payable from August, 1953 and represented the full increase in the "C" Series retail price index numbers between June quarter, 1953 and September quarter, 1955.

The movement in the "C" Series retail price index numbers in respect of the September quarter, 1956 was materially affected by the abnormal price movements in potatoes and onions brought about by a diminution in supplies of these items in most States of Australia.

In order to assist public understanding of the trends in retail prices within the definition of the respective indexes, the Commonwealth Statistician, in his statistical bulletin *The "C" Series Retail Price Index, September Quarter, 1956* showed two sets of index numbers, namely, "Aggregate All Groups" and "All Groups *Excluding* price movements of potatoes and onions".

The Industrial Registrar of the Industrial Commission of New South Wales, in accordance with section 61M(2) of the Industrial Arbitration Act, varied awards, etc., under the jurisdiction of that tribunal to incorporate an adjustment of 11s. a week in the basic wage as from the first pay-period in November, 1956. This basic wage adjustment was based on the "C" Series retail price index number "Aggregate All Groups" in respect of Sydney for the September quarter, 1956.

The Metal Trades Employers' Association and others appealed to the Industrial Commission of New South Wales against the decision of the Registrar and contended that the basic wage adjustment operative from the

* *New South Wales Industrial Gazette*, Vol. 111, p. 128.

first pay-period in November, 1956 should be determined by using the Commonwealth Statistician's retail price index number "All Groups *Excluding* price movements of potatoes and onions" for the September quarter, 1956.

The Industrial Commission, in its judgment of 5th November, 1956, dismissed the appeal and supported the decision of the Registrar to make quarterly adjustments to the basic wage by the application of the "C" Series Index on its customary basis.

Automatic adjustments based on the "C" Series retail price index numbers for Sydney have been made for each subsequent quarter. The rates payable in Sydney as from the first pay-period in May, 1957 were £12 16s. a week for adult males and £9 12s. for adult females.

The principle of supplementing wages by a payment in respect of dependent children under fourteen years of age operated in New South Wales from July, 1927, until superseded by the Commonwealth Government scheme from 1st July, 1941, and a brief account of the main features of the system appeared on page 103 of Labour Report No. 36.

(ii) *Victoria*.—There is no provision in Victorian industrial legislation for the declaration of a State basic wage. Wages Boards constituted from representatives of employers and employees and an independent chairman, for each industry group or calling, determine the minimum rate of wage to be paid in that industry or calling. In general, these Boards have adopted a basic wage in determining the rate of wage to be paid.

By an amendment to the Factories and Shops Act in 1934, Wages Boards were given discretionary power to include in their determinations appropriate provisions of relevant Commonwealth awards. A further amendment to this Act in 1937 made it compulsory for Wages Boards to adopt such provisions of Commonwealth awards. This amending Act also gave Wages Boards power to adjust wage rates "with the variation from time to time of the cost of living as indicated by such retail price index numbers published by the Commonwealth Statistician as the Wages Board considers appropriate". The Wages Boards thus adopted the basic wages declared by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and followed that Court's system of adjusting the basic wage in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers.

After the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration discontinued the system of automatic adjustment of the Commonwealth basic wage (*see* page 62), a number of Wages Boards met in September, 1953 and deleted references to these adjustments. However, an amendment to the Factories and Shops Act in November, 1953 required Wages Boards to provide for the automatic adjustment of wage rates in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers.

From 1st July, 1954 the Factories and Shops Acts 1928–1953 were replaced by the Labour and Industry Act 1953, which was, in general, a consolidation of the previous Acts and retained the requirement providing for the automatic adjustment of wages in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers.

An amendment to the Labour and Industry Act proclaimed on 17th October, 1956 deleted the automatic adjustment provision and directed Wages Boards in determining wage rates to take into consideration relevant awards of, or agreements certified by, the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. The last automatic quarterly adjustment of the basic wage made, based on the variation in retail price index numbers for the June quarter,

1956, became payable from the beginning of the first pay-period in August, 1956. The rates, which were still payable in June, 1957, were £13 3s. a week for adult males and £9 17s. for adult females.

(iii) *Queensland*.—The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1929 repealed the Industrial Arbitration Act of 1916 and amendments thereof, and the Basic Wage Act of 1925. The Board of Trade and Arbitration was abolished, and a Court, called the Industrial Court, was established. The Act provides that it shall be the duty of the Court to make declarations as to—(a) the “basic” wage, and (b) the maximum weekly hours to be worked in industry (called the “standard” hours). For the purposes of making any such declarations the Court shall be constituted by the Judge and two members, one of whom shall be also a member of the Queensland Prices Board.

The main provisions to be observed by the Court when determining the “basic” wage are—(a) the minimum wage of an adult male employee shall be not less than is sufficient to maintain a well-conducted employee of average health, strength and competence, and his wife and a family of three children in a fair and average standard of comfort, having regard to the conditions of living prevailing among employees in the calling in respect of which such minimum wage is fixed, and provided that the earnings of the children or wife of such employee shall not be taken into account; (b) the minimum wage of an adult female employee shall be not less than is sufficient to enable her to support herself in a fair and average standard of comfort, having regard to the nature of her duties and to the conditions of living prevailing among female employees in the calling in respect of which such minimum wage is fixed. The Court shall, in the matter of making declarations in regard to the “basic” wage or “standard” hours, take into consideration the probable economic effect of such declaration in relation to the community in general, and the probable economic effect thereof upon industry or any industry or industries concerned.

The first formal declaration of a basic wage by the Queensland Court of Industrial Arbitration was gazetted on 24th February, 1921, when the basic wage was declared at £4 5s. a week for adult males and £2 3s. for adult females. Prior to this declaration the rate of £3 17s. a week for adult males had been generally recognized by the Court in its awards as the “basic” or “living” wage. The declarations of the Industrial Court are published in the *Queensland Industrial Gazette* and the rates declared at various dates are as follows:—

BASIC WAGE DECLARATIONS IN QUEENSLAND.

(State Jurisdiction.)

Date of Operation.	Adult Basic Wage.		Date of Operation.	Adult Basic Wage.	
	Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st March, 1921 ..	4 5 0	2 3 0	1st April, 1938 ..	4 1 0	2 3 0
1st March, 1922 ..	4 0 0	2 1 0	7th August, 1939 ..	4 4 0	2 5 0
28th September, 1925(a) ..	4 5 0	2 3 0	31st March, 1941 ..	4 9 0	2 8 0
1st August, 1930 ..	4 0 0	2 1 0	4th May, 1942(b) ..	4 11 0	2 9 6
1st December, 1930 ..	3 17 0	1 19 6	23rd December, 1946(c) ..	5 5 0	3 0 6
1st July, 1931 ..	3 14 0	1 19 0	7th December, 1950(c) ..	7 14 0	5 2 6
1st April, 1937 ..	3 18 0	2 1 0	1st February, 1954(d) ..	11 5 0	7 11 0

(a) Fixed by Basic Wage Act.

1942—see p. 90.

(c) Consequent upon basic wage increases granted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

(b) Quarterly adjustments provided by judgment of 21st April, 1942—see p. 90.

(d) Rates declared in 1954 Basic Wage Inquiry (see p. 90).

On 15th April, 1942 the Court declared the rates operative from 31st March, 1941 as adequately meeting the requirements of section 9 of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1932, having regard to the level of the "C" Series retail price index for Brisbane for the December quarter, 1941, and decided to make a quarterly declaration of the basic wage on the basis of the variations in the "cost of living" as disclosed by the "C" Series index for Brisbane, commencing with the figures for the March quarter, 1942. This declaration was duly made by the Court on 21st April, 1942 at the rates of £4 11s. for adult males and £2 9s. 6d. for adult females. Following this judgment regular quarterly adjustments were made to the basic wage until January, 1953 (*see below*).

The Queensland Industrial Court granted increases of 7s. and 5s. to the basic wages for adult males and adult females respectively, payable from 23rd December, 1946, following the "interim" basic wage judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced earlier in December, 1946 (*see page 59*).

Following the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to increase the male and female basic wages from December, 1950 (*see page 60*), the Queensland Industrial Court conducted an inquiry as to what change should be made to the State basic wage for Queensland. The Industrial Court granted an increase of 15s. weekly to both adult males and adult females, thus increasing the metropolitan rates to £7 14s. a week and £5 2s. 6d. a week respectively. The increase became operative from 7th December, 1950. The basic wage payable to adult females was approximately 66 per cent. of the male rate.*

In January, 1953 the Queensland Industrial Court departed from the practice (established in 1942) of varying the basic wage in accordance with quarterly variations in the "C" Series retail price index numbers for Brisbane. If the practice had been continued, a reduction of 1s. would have been made in the basic wage for adult males from January, 1953. The Court was not satisfied, however, that the movement in the "C" Series index for Brisbane for the December quarter, 1952 was a true representation or reflex of the economic position for Queensland as a whole and so declined to make any alteration to the then existing basic wage.†

Quarterly adjustments were made for the next four quarters and the basic wage became £11 5s. for adult males from 1st February, 1954.

Commencing in March, 1954 a Basic Wage Inquiry was conducted by the Court and in its judgment of 11th June, 1954 the Court stated that there would be no change in the basic wage rates declared for February, 1954.‡

At subsequent hearings consequent on the movement in the "C" Series retail price index numbers for Brisbane in respect of the quarters ended 30th June, 30th September and 31st December, 1954 and 31st March, 1955 the Court again decided not to vary the existing basic wage rates. However, after considering the "C" Series index number for the quarter ended 30th June, 1955 and its relation to the index number for the March quarter, 1955 the Court announced that as these figures showed a continued upward trend of cost of living in 1955 the basic wage for adult males should be increased from £11 5s.

* *Queensland Industrial Gazette*, Vol. 35, p. 1253.
Vol. 39, p. 355.

† *Qld. I.G.*, Vol. 38, p. 137.

‡ *Qld. I.G.*

to £11 7s. from 1st August, 1955. In this judgment the Court emphasised that it holds itself free whether or not to adjust the basic wage upwards or downwards in accordance with movement of the "C" Series retail price index number.

Subsequently, the basic wage rates were again increased by the Court, following the movement in the "C" Series retail price index number for the quarter ended 30th September, 1955 and the rates payable from 24th October, 1955 became £11 9s. for adult males and £7 14s. for adult females in the Southern Division (Eastern District).

After considering the movement in the "C" Series retail price index numbers for Brisbane, the Queensland Industrial Court in February, 1956 declined to vary the basic wage, and in April and July, 1956 granted separate increases of 4s. payable from 23rd April and 23rd July.

In announcing an increase of 4s. in the adult male basic wage for Brisbane payable from 29th October, 1956, the Court stated that due weight had been always given to variations in the "C" Series retail price index numbers in determining the basic wage. However, the Court felt that the considerable increases in the "C" Series index numbers for the September quarter, 1956 due substantially to the abnormal increases in the prices of potatoes and onions made the index unreal as to the movement in retail prices generally. Under the circumstances, the Court decided not to increase the basic wage by the amount which would have applied if the wage had been automatically adjusted on the basis of the "C" Series retail price index numbers including potatoes and onions.

Consequent on the issue of the "C" Series retail price index numbers for the December quarter, 1956, the Court announced there would be no change in the basic wage as the movement in the "C" Series index numbers for Brisbane was such that if the system of automatic adjustments had applied the basic wage would have been equal to the wage declared by the Court in the previous quarter. This fact prompted the following comment by the Court in the basic wage declaration of January, 1957: "The existing basic wage of £12 1s. for adult males truly reflects the increase in the 'C' Series index as shown between the June quarter and the end of the December quarter".

The Queensland Industrial Court, after examining the movement in the "C" Series index numbers for the March quarter, 1957, declared, as from 29th April, 1957, an adult male basic wage of £11 19s. for Brisbane.

The rates shown above are applicable throughout the Southern Division (Eastern District—including Brisbane); allowances are added for other areas as follows:—Southern Division (Western District), 7s. 4d.; Mackay Division, 5s. 6d.; Northern Division (Eastern District), 10s.; and Northern Division (Western District), 17s. 4d. Half of these allowances are granted to females.*

(iv) *South Australia*—The Industrial Code, 1920–1955 provides that the Board of Industry shall, after public inquiry as to the increase or decrease in the average cost of living, declare the "living wage" to be paid to adult male employees and to adult female employees. The Board has power also to fix different rates to be paid in different defined areas.

It is provided that the Board of Industry shall hold an inquiry for the purpose of declaring the living wage whenever a substantial change in the cost of living or any other circumstances has, in the opinion of the Board,

* *Queensland Industrial Gazette*, Vol. 6, p. 826.

rendered it just and expedient to review the question of the living wage, but a new determination cannot be made by the Board until the expiration of at least six months from the date of its previous determination.

The Board of Industry consists of five members, one nominated by the Minister for Industry, two nominated by the South Australian Employers' Federation as representatives of employers, and two nominated by the United Trades and Labour Council of South Australia as representatives of employees. The member nominated by the Minister is President and presides at all meetings of the Board.

According to the Industrial Code, 1920–1955, living wage means “a sum sufficient for the normal and reasonable needs of the average employee living in the locality where the work under consideration is done or is to be done.”

The family unit is not specifically defined in the Code, but the South Australian Industrial Court in 1920 decided that the “average employee” in respect of whom the living wage is to be declared is a man with a wife and three children.

The first declaration by the Board of Industry was made on 15th July, 1921, when the living wage for adult male employees in the metropolitan area was determined at £3 19s. 6d. a week. The living wage for adult female employees in the same area was declared on 11th August, 1921 at £1 15s. a week.

The living wage declaration by the Board of Industry are set out below. The rates apply to the whole State.

LIVING WAGE DECLARATIONS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

(State Jurisdiction.)

Male.		Female.	
Date of Operation.	Living Wage per Week.	Date of Operation.	Living Wage per Week.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
4th August, 1921	3 19 6	1st September, 1921 ..	1 15 0
27th April, 1922	3 17 6	.. ..	..
8th November, 1923 ..	3 18 6	.. ..	..
15th May, 1924	4 2 0	13th November, 1924 ..	1 18 0
13th August, 1925	4 5 6	3rd September, 1925 ..	1 19 6
30th October, 1930 ..	3 15 0	15th January, 1931 ..	1 15 0
10th September, 1931 ..	3 3 0	24th December, 1931 ..	1 11 6
7th November, 1935 ..	3 6 0	16th January, 1936 ..	1 13 0
7th January, 1937	3 9 6	29th April, 1937	1 14 9
25th November, 1937 ..	3 14 0	} (a) }	1 16 6
5th January, 1939	3 18 0		1 18 0
28th November, 1940 ..	4 4 0		2 1 0
27th November, 1941 ..	4 7 0		2 3 6
15th October, 1942	4 14 0		2 6 2
26th September, 1946 ..	4 18 6		2 15 0
7th January, 1947(b) ..	5 2 0		2 17 0
8th July, 1948	5 17 0		3 6 6
19th May, 1949	6 5 0		3 8 6

(a) From 1937 dates of operation were the same as those for male rates. rate for metropolitan area adopted.

(b) Commonwealth

Following on the declaration of an "interim" increase in its "needs" basic wage by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration on 13th December, 1946 (*see* page 59) the South Australian Government made provision through the Economic Stability Act, 1946 for the declaration by the Governor of a living wage based on the Commonwealth basic wage for Adelaide. This action was taken because the Board of Industry had made a determination on 5th September, 1946 and under the Industrial Code was not able to make a further determination for six months. On 24th December, 1946 the Governor issued a proclamation, declaring a rate of £5 2s. a week, including the 4s. "Prosperity" loading, to operate from 7th January, 1947. The Economic Stability Act also provided for similar proclamations in respect of adjustments to the living wage; however, the powers of the Board of Industry to declare a living wage which would supersede any wage declared by proclamation were retained.

On 24th May, 1947 the Board of Industry recommended, after an inquiry, that a "cost of living loading" of 5s. a week, over and above the metropolitan living wage, should apply to adult males located at Whyalla. This amount was subsequently adopted and continues to operate.

The Industrial Code Amendment Act, 1949 made provision for the quarterly adjustment of the living wage in accordance with the variations in the Commonwealth basic wage for Adelaide. In effect this made the State living wage and the Commonwealth basic wage equal from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in February, 1950. The prescribed adjustment to the female living wage was seven-twelfths of that made to the Commonwealth male basic wage. The Board of Industry retained power to amend the living wage but any new living wage was to be adjusted quarterly as above.

Following the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949-50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 60), the South Australian Industrial Code was amended to provide for declarations of the living wage by proclamation to prevent unjustifiable differences between the Commonwealth and State basic wages. By proclamation dated 30th November, 1950, the South Australian living wage in the metropolitan area was increased from £6 17s. to £7 18s. for adult males and from £3 14s. 11d. to £5 18s. 6d. for adult females, operative from 4th December, 1950. These new rates were identical with the December rates fixed by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the metropolitan area of South Australia.

The female rate, which had previously been approximately 54 per cent. of the male basic wage, was, by the proclamation, increased to 75 per cent. of the corresponding male rate.

The living wage for Adelaide was adjusted each quarter, as required under the State Industrial Code, in accordance with variations in the Commonwealth basic wage for Adelaide. This procedure continued until the August, 1953 adjustment, at which date the basic wages payable were £11 11s. a week for adult males and £8 13s. for adult females.

The basic wages of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for Adelaide remained unchanged from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953 until the first pay-period in June, 1956, when an increase of 10s. a week was granted to adult males and an increase of 7s. 6d.

to adult females. A further increase in the Commonwealth basic wage of 10s. for adult males and 7s. 6d. for adult females was granted by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission as from the first pay-period on or after 15th May, 1957. Similiar increases in the South Australian living wage were proclaimed by the Governor of South Australia on 31st May, 1956 and 9th May, 1957, on the recommendation of the President of the Board of Industry, to operate from 4th June, 1956 and 20th May, 1957, respectively. From 20th May, 1957, the living wage in the metropolitan area of South Australia was £12 11s. for adult males and £9 8s. for adult females.

(v) *Western Australia*.—The Court of Arbitration, appointed under the provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act 1912–1952, determines and declares the “basic wage” in this State. The Court consists of three members appointed by the Governor, one on the recommendation of the industrial unions of employers, one on the recommendation of the industrial unions of employees, while the third member is a Judge of the Supreme Court. The last-mentioned member is the President of the Court.

The Industrial Arbitration Act 1912–1952 provides that the Court of Arbitration may determine and declare a basic wage at any time on its own motion, and must do so when requested by a majority of industrial unions or by the Western Australian Employers’ Federation, with the limitation that no new determination shall be made within twelve months of the last preceding inquiry.

The term “basic wage” is defined in the Act as “a wage which the Court considers to be just and reasonable for the average worker to whom it applies”. In determining what is just and reasonable the Court must take into account not only the “needs of an average worker” but also the “economic capacity of industry” and any other matters the Court deems relevant.

The family unit is not specifically defined in the Act, but it has been the practice of the Court to take as a basis of its calculations a man, his wife and two dependent children.

The Act provides that the Court of Arbitration may make adjustments of the basic wage each quarter if the official statement supplied to the Court by the State Government Statistician relating to the cost of living shows that a variation of 1s. or more a week has occurred, compared with the preceding quarter. These adjustments apply from the dates of declaration by the Court. The Act does not define the term “cost of living”, but it has been held to mean “the basic wage as declared from time to time by the Court and as existing at the time that we (the Court) have taken into consideration the Statistician’s figures.” (Mr. Justice Dwyer, in the Court of Arbitration, Western Australia, in the matter of the Quarterly Adjustment of the Basic Wage, 18th August, 1931.)*

The annual and special declarations of the Court of Arbitration under the provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act are shown for the various areas of the State in the following table. It must be noted that prior to 1950 the legislation differed from that outlined above. Particulars of the previous legislation will be found in earlier issues of the Labour Report.

* *Western Australian Industrial Gazette*, Vol. 1. 9., p. 166.

BASIC WAGE DECLARATIONS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

(State Jurisdiction.)

Date of Operation.	Metropolitan Area.		South-West Land Division.		Goldfields Areas and Other Parts of State.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st July, 1926 ..	4 5 0	2 5 11	4 5 0	2 5 11	4 5 0	2 5 11
" " 1929 ..	4 7 0	2 7 0	4 7 0	2 7 0	a4 7 0	a2 7 0
" " 1930 ..	4 6 0	2 6 5	4 5 0	2 5 11	4 5 0	2 5 11
" " 1931 ..	3 18 0	2 2 2	3 17 0	2 1 8	3 17 0	2 1 8
" " 1932 ..	3 12 0	1 18 11	3 13 6	1 19 8	3 18 0	2 2 2
" " 1933 ..	3 8 0	1 16 9	3 9 6	1 17 6	3 17 6	2 1 10
" " 1934 ..	3 9 6	1 17 6	3 10 0	1 17 10	3 19 6	2 2 11
" " 1935 ..	3 10 6	1 18 1	3 11 2	1 18 5	4 4 4	2 5 6
" " 1936 ..	3 10 6	1 18 1	3 11 9	1 18 9	4 6 0	2 6 5
" " 1937 ..	3 13 9	1 19 10	3 14 8	2 0 4	4 7 0	2 7 0
" " 1938 ..	4 0 0	2 3 2	4 1 0	2 3 9	4 13 3	2 10 4
" " 1939 ..	b4 2 2	b2 4 4	4 3 1	2 4 10	b4 16 4	b2 12 0
" " 1940 ..	4 2 8	2 4 8	4 3 3	2 4 11	4 16 3	2 12 0
" " 1941(c) ..	4 8 0	2 7 6	4 9 3	2 8 2	5 3 6	2 15 11
" " 1943 ..	4 19 1	2 13 6	4 18 1	2 13 0	5 5 9	2 17 1
" " 1944 ..	4 19 11	2 13 11	4 19 8	2 13 10	5 7 1	2 17 10
" " 1945 ..	5 0 1	2 14 1	4 19 7	2 13 9	5 7 5	2 18 0
" " 1946 ..	5 1 1	2 14 7	5 0 6	2 14 3	5 9 0	2 18 10
26th Feb., 1947(d) ..	5 7 1	2 17 10	5 6 6	2 17 6	5 15 4	3 2 3
1st July, 1947 ..	5 7 10	2 18 3	5 7 3	2 17 11	5 16 0	3 2 8
" " 1948 ..	5 15 9	3 2 6	5 15 2	3 2 2	6 4 9	3 7 4
" " 1949 ..	6 7 1	3 8 8	6 6 9	3 8 5	6 15 1	3 12 11
" " 1950 ..	7 0 0	3 15 7	6 19 9	3 15 6	7 7 3	3 19 6
18th Dec., 1950(d) ..	8 6 6	4 14 1	8 6 7	4 14 2	8 14 8	4 18 6
1st " 1951(e) ..	..	6 13 8	..	6 13 0	..	6 17 1

(a) Excludes Goldfields areas, where rates were the same as those operating from 1st July, 1926.
 (b) Applicable from 24th April, 1939. (c) Applicable from 28th April, 1941. (d) Special declarations following basic wage increases granted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. (e) Inquiry into female rates only.

The first declaration of the "basic wage" by the Court of Arbitration since the authority to fix one was vested in the Court by the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1925 was made on 11th June, 1926, when the rate for adult male employees was determined at £4 5s. a week, and for adult female employees at £2 5s. 11d. a week. Since that date the principal inquiries have been those of 1938, 1947, 1950 and 1951.

The declaration of 13th June, 1938 (operative from 1st July) was based on the findings of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920 (*see* page 56). For this purpose the Court reduced the amount recommended by the Commission for a five-unit family to the equivalent for a four-unit family and brought the resulting amounts up to their purchasing equivalents at the March quarter, 1938, by means of the separate "group" retail price index numbers in respect of the sections for food, clothing and miscellaneous expenditure, and for rent added an amount which was considered fair under ruling conditions.*

The increased basic wage of 26th February, 1947, was granted after an inquiry† by the Western Australian Court of Arbitration consequent upon the "Interim" Basic Wage Judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in December, 1946 (*see* page 59).

* *Western Australian Industrial Gazette*, Vol. 18, p. 151. † *W.A. I.G.*, Vol. 27, p. 39.

Following the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 60) the Western Australian Court of Arbitration resumed an inquiry which had been adjourned, to ascertain what change should be made in the State basic wage rates. In its judgment of 7th December, 1950* the Court decided that the basic wage should be increased by £1 a week for adult males and by 15s. a week for adult females. The rates in the metropolitan area then became £8 6s. 6d. for adult males and £4 14s. 1d. for adult females, operative from 18th December, 1950. In relation to the female rate the unions' claim had been for a basic wage equal to 75 per cent. of the male rate instead of the existing 54 per cent. Although this claim was not granted it was intimated that the increase of 15s. should not necessarily be regarded as the Court's final word on the subject.

As the result of a subsequent inquiry† the basic wage for adult females was increased from 1st December, 1951 to 65 per cent. of the corresponding male rate. This was subject to the condition that the increase in the basic wage should be offset by the reduction in or deletion of existing margins between the basic wage and the total wage as specified by the appropriate award or determination.

The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced on 12th September, 1953 the discontinuance of quarterly adjustments. Following this decision the Western Australian Court of Arbitration exercised its discretionary power and, after reviewing the quarterly statements prepared by the Government Statistician for each quarter from September quarter, 1953 to March quarter, 1955, declined to make, where applicable, any adjustment to the basic wage. However, after reviewing the statement submitted by the Government Statistician for the quarter ended 30th June, 1955 the Court decided to increase the basic wage for Perth by 5s. 11d. a week for adult males and to make corresponding increases for the other areas in the State. On 2nd November, 1955, the Court announced that there would be no alteration of the existing basic wage, on the grounds that the statement submitted by the Government Statistician for the quarter ended 30th September, 1955 did not reveal the necessary statutory margin of difference from the previous quarter's figures.

Subsequently, adjustments were made to the basic wage each quarter in 1956 and in January and April, 1957. Including the variation payable as from 26th April, 1957, the metropolitan basic wage for adult males was £13 8s. 10d. a week and for adult females £8 14s. 9d. a week.

(vi) *Tasmania*.—A State basic wage is not declared in Tasmania. Wages Boards constituted for a number of industries, from representatives of employers and employees and an independent chairman, determine the minimum rate of wage payable in each industry. Until February, 1956 these Boards generally adopted the basic wages of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in determining the rate of wage to be paid.

The Wages Boards Act 1920–1951 gives Wages Boards power to adjust wage rates in accordance with variations in the cost of living as indicated by retail price index numbers published by the Commonwealth Statistician and until November, 1953, Wages Board determinations provided for automatic adjustments of the basic wage.

* *W.A. I.G.*, Vol. 30, p. 336.

† *W.A. I.G.*, Vol. 36, p. 497.

Following the decision of the Commonwealth Court in September, 1953, to discontinue the system of automatic quarterly adjustments of the basic wage, the Minister called a compulsory conference of Wages Boards on 30th October, 1953 so that the Chairman of Wages Boards could inform his mind on the situation. After hearing the views of employer and employee representatives the Chairman stated: "I consider that the basic wage should remain stationary for a reasonable trial period but if a serious attempt is not made to stabilize prices and in some cases to reduce them, applications can be made for meetings of Wages Boards to reconsider the position."

Before Wages Boards met to consider this matter, the wage rates for all determinations were automatically adjusted upwards from the beginning of the first pay-period in November. However, after meeting, all Wages Boards decided as from 9th December, 1953 to delete the automatic adjustment clause from determinations and cancel the adjustments made in November.

During 1955, representations were made for the restoration of automatic quarterly adjustments and, on 1st November, 1955, at the conclusion of a compulsory conference of employer and employee representatives, the Chairman of Wages Boards announced that, in his opinion, automatic quarterly adjustments should be restored in Wages Boards determinations. He suggested, however, that the adjustments should be delayed until February, 1956 so that a serious attempt could be made during November, December and January to reduce prices.

In accordance with this decision, Wages Boards met and re-inserted in determinations the provision for automatic quarterly adjustments. The wage rate payable under Wages Boards determinations from the first pay-period in February, 1956 became that which would have been payable if quarterly adjustments had continued in the period under review.

The decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1956 basic wage case delivered in May, 1956, (*see* page 64) caused representations to be made for a review of the problem of automatic quarterly adjustments. Following requests by the Employers' Federation that Wages Boards accept the Commonwealth basic wage and delete automatic adjustment provisions from Wages Boards determinations, a compulsory conference of employer and employee representatives was held on 22nd and 25th June, 1956. On 3rd July, 1956 the Chairman issued a statement that he favoured the suspension of automatic adjustments in order to achieve some measure of stability. He added, however, that if prices continued to rise it would be necessary to review the position.

As at June, 1957, most of the Wages Boards had suspended quarterly basic wage adjustments and the basic wage for Hobart generally incorporated in determinations was £13 12s. for adult males and £10 4s. for adult females.

(vii) *Rates Prescribed.*—The “ basic wage ” rates of State industrial tribunals operative in November, 1955 and 1956 are summarized in the following table:—

STATE BASIC WAGES : WEEKLY RATES.

State.	November, 1955.			November, 1956.		
	Date of Operation. (a)	Males.	Females.	Date of Operation. (a)	Males.	Females.
		s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
New South Wales—						
Metropolitan and Country, excluding Broken Hill	Nov., 1955	253 0	189 6	Nov., 1956	274 0	205 6
Broken Hill	Nov., 1955	254 0	190 6	Nov., 1956	272 0	204 0
Victoria(b)	Nov., 1955	246 0	184 6	Aug., 1956	263 0	197 0
Queensland—						
Southern Division (Eastern District), including Brisbane ..	24.10.55	229 0	154 0	29.10.56	241 0	162 6
Southern Division (Western District)	24.10.55	236 4	157 8	29.10.56	248 4	166 2
Mackay Division	24.10.55	234 6	156 9	29.10.56	246 6	165 3
Northern Division (Eastern District)	24.10.55	239 0	159 0	29.10.56	251 0	167 6
Northern Division (Western District)	24.10.55	246 4	162 8	29.10.56	258 4	171 2
South Australia(c)	Aug., 1953	231 0	173 0	June, 1956	241 0	180 6
Western Australia—						
Metropolitan Area	9.8.55	252 5	164 1	29.10.56	265 2	172 4
South-West Land Division ..	9.8.55	251 8	163 7	29.10.56	262 11	170 11
Goldfields and other areas ..	9.8.55	254 1	165 2	29.10.56	262 8	170 9
Tasmania(b)	Aug., 1953	242 0	181 6	Aug., 1956	272 0	204 0

(a) Where dates are not quoted wage rates operate from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in the month shown. (b) No basic wage declared. Rates shown are those adopted by most Wages Boards. (c) The living wage declared for the metropolitan area is also adopted for country areas, except at Whyalla, where a loading of 5s. a week is generally payable.

§ 5. Wage Margins.

On 5th November, 1954 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration delivered a judgment* which in effect became a general determination of the basis upon which all relevant wage and salary margins should be assessed. This became known as the Metal Trades Case, 1954.

General principles of marginal rate fixation had previously been enunciated by the Court in the Engineers' Case of 1924, the Merchant Service Guild Case of 1942 and the Printing Trades Case of 1947, and the Court adopted these insofar as they were applicable to current circumstances.

“ Margins ” were defined as—

“ Minimum amounts awarded above the basic wage to particular classifications of employees for the features attaching to their work which justify payments above the basic wage, whether those features are the skill or experience required for the performance of that work, its particularly laborious nature, or the disabilities attached to its performance.”

A brief account of the Metal Trades Case is as follows:—

The Amalgamated Engineering Union, the Electrical Trades Union and other employee organizations parties to the Metal Trades award, 1952, filed applications during 1953 for increased margins for all workers covered by this award.

* Commonwealth Arbitration Reports, Vol. 80, p. 3.

The applications came on for hearing before Mr. Conciliation Commissioner Galvin, who decided that they raised matters of such importance that, in the public interest, they should be dealt with by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. On 16th September and 6th October, 1953 the Conciliation Commissioner, pursuant to section 14A of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act, referred these applications to the Court.

The actual claims of the trade unions were that the marginal rate of 52s. a week payable to a fitter in the metal trades should be increased to 80s. a week (86s. for certain electrical trades) with proportionate increases for other award occupations. The margins then current, with a few exceptions, had been in existence since 1947. The employees' claims were in the nature of a test case to determine the attitude of the Court to applications for increased margins.

The Metal Trades Employers' Association and other respondents to the Metal Trades award had counter-claimed that existing margins for skilled tradesmen should remain unaltered, while those paid to partly skilled or unskilled workers should be reduced.

The Court decided to take the Commissioner's two references together and the matter came on for hearing before the Full Arbitration Court (Kelly C. J., Kirby, Dunphy and Morgan JJ.) in Melbourne on 13th October, 1953.

In a judgment delivered on 25th February, 1954 the Court held that a *prima facie* case had been made for a re-assessment of margins but that the economic situation at that time, particularly in regard to the level of costs, did not permit of such a comprehensive review. The Court decided that to avoid the creation of new disputes, to save expense and to obviate procedural difficulties, it would not reject the claims but adjourn them until 9th November, 1954.

On 25th and 26th August, 1954, summonses were filed by the employees, organizations for orders that proceedings in this case be brought forward and the hearing was resumed on 5th October, 1954.

In a judgment delivered on 5th November, 1954 the Court made an order re-assessing the marginal structure in the Metal Trades award by, in general, raising the current amount of margin to two and a half times the amount of the margin that had been current in 1937. However, in cases in which the result of that calculation produced an amount less than the existing margin the existing margin was to remain unaltered. In effect, this decision increased the margin of a fitter from 52s. a week to 75s. a week, increased similarly margins of other skilled occupations, and made no increase in margins of what may generally be described as the unskilled or only slightly skilled employees under the Metal Trades award.

At the end of its judgment the Court stated that, while its decision in this case related immediately to one particular industry, it was expected to afford general guidance to all authorities operating under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act or under other legislation which provided for tribunals having power to make references, or being subject to appeal, to the Court, where the wage or salary may properly be regarded as containing a margin. The Court added observations for the guidance of these and of other tribunals "which may regard decisions of this Court as of persuasive authority."

In view of the widespread effects of this judgment some extensive extracts from it are given below:—

"Margins are minimum amounts awarded above the basic wage to particular classifications of employees for the features attaching to their work which justify payments above the basic wage, whether those features

are the skill or experience required for the performance of that work, its particularly laborious nature, or the disabilities attached to its performance. Furthermore, the assessment of each margin should be made in relation to each other margin, so that the margin awarded to one employee should bear, as far as possible, its proper monetary comparison with that of every other employee awarded a margin, having in mind the various matters which in each case should be weighed in assessing the margin. These observations may appear to be somewhat trite, but we state them because we think that they are often forgotten or overlooked.”*

“The first task of the Court in the problem of determining what should be the present assessment or re-assessment of margins in this industry has been to decide what can be regarded—generally speaking—as a sound basis on which to build. Our conclusion on this question is that the proper point for a general approach to this question is the variation order made by Beeby *J.* on the 23rd February, 1937 . . .”†

“Since 1937 there have been four major decisions which have increased the margins in this industry; certainly three of these have resulted in distortions of greater or lesser degree of the scheme of margins assessed by Beeby *J.* in 1937. The distortions to which we refer have resulted in each case in the improvement of the relative marginal position of the unskilled or relatively unskilled employee in comparison with that of the skilled. In two of these cases the major adjustments of margins which were made were the result in part of the agreement of some employers.”‡

“The cumulative effect of the distortions resulting from the addition of the loadings in 1941, and of the two variation orders made by Mr. Commissioner Mooney in 1947, can conveniently be seen in the following table which sets out certain selected classifications, some of which have been regarded as “key” classifications in the industry:—

Title of classification.	Margin under 1937 orders.	Margin including “loading” under first order.	Margin including “loading” under first Mooney order of 1947.	Margin including “loading” under second Mooney order of 1947.
Duster	50s.	56s.	65s.	82s. 6d.
Fitter	30s.	36s.	45s.	52s.
Annealer	25s.	29s.	36s.	42s. 6d.
Machinist 2nd class ..	20s.	24s.	31s.	37s.
Machinist 3rd class ..	14s.	17s.	22s.	28s.
Process worker	8s.	11s.	16s.	22s.
Racksman	4s.	7s.	12s.	18s.
All other labourers ..	Nil	3s.	3s.	3s.

An examination of this table shows in a somewhat startling way the deterioration of the relative position of the skilled employee’s margin in relation to the margins of the semi-skilled or unskilled.”‡

“In our earlier reasons we said:—

‘The Court has in the past rejected the principle that marginal rates should be adjusted, either automatically or from time to time, in accordance with variations in the purchasing power of money. It again rejects this principle.’

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 80, p. 24.

† *Ibid.*, p. 25.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 29.

“ Mr. Eggleston (Counsel for the unions) in discussing that observation during the adjourned hearing remarked that the claim was not now made that the margins should be automatically adjusted on change in the value of money. But the claim now made is that at this ‘time’ such an adjustment should be made, provided that in the view of the Court the economic state of the country can sustain the burden of the adjustment. On the question of the adjustment of margins according to variation in the value of money we do not propose to add anything to what we said earlier, and we again reject the claim that wage justice requires that, even *prima facie*, a margin properly assessed earlier should be adjusted when it comes up for re-assessment by relation to a change in the purchasing power of money.

“ In our earlier reasons we said:—

‘ The court adopts the general principles of marginal fixation enunciated in the *Engineers Case* of 1924, the *Merchant Service Guild Case* of 1942, and the *Printing Trades Case* of 1947.’

“ In the *Printing Trades Case* of 1947, Kelly J. (as he then was), after reviewing earlier decisions of this Court relating to the assessment of margins, including the *Engineers Case* of 1924 and the *Merchant Service Guild Case* of 1942, said:—

‘ I conclude, therefore, that the following rules should guide me in the review of wage rates sought by the present application:—

1. That it must be put upon the applicant Union to satisfy the Court that material change in circumstances, occurring since the making of the award, has rendered the rates then prescribed as minima no longer just as such.
2. That the standard of justice must be the true value to-day of the work for which the rates are to be made payable as minima.
3. That the true value is not to be ascertained by reference to high wages being paid on account of accidental and temporary conditions connected with a shortage of labour.
4. That the true value is not to be ascertained by reference to variation in the purchasing power of money since the award was made.
5. That the assessment of the true value must have regard to comparisons of minimum rates payable for work in comparable industries or of comparable occupations.’

“ Paragraph 4 of that quotation should be read with a sentence later in the same reasons in which Kelly J., in giving his reasons for assessing the margin of the hand-compositor at a new and higher rate, remarked:—

‘ Whilst not allowing myself to inform my decision by reference to any proportionate fall in the purchasing power of money since either the 1942 or previous awards were made, I have not forgotten that nominal values of all things, including the nominal value of work, must tend to increase with an increase in the nominal prices of essential commodities.’

"We think that it may be convenient to discuss first the position of the fitter, whom we may take as exemplifying the position of the really skilled employee under this award. (We do not wish it to be thought, however, that in discussing the position of the fitter first we have in any sense looked upon him in isolation from the other classifications in the award. The problem must be considered as a whole and it is desirable for us to mention before we come to the margin of the fitter that we are clearly of the opinion that looked at from any point of view—whether from the value of money or otherwise—no case has been made out for any increase in the margins prescribed for what may generally be described as the unskilled or only slightly skilled employees.) We have said that the fitter's margin in 1937 was assessed at 30s.; it has now reached 52s. Our task is to decide what is 'the true value today of the work' which the fitter does. The fact, of which there is some evidence, that a large body of other employees not in this industry have been awarded increases in margins since 1947 may have seemed to supply some *prima facie* ground for the increase of the fitter's margin, awarded in 1947 by the Full Court, which has not since been increased; but the evidence on that score is of such a nature that it would provide but an uncertain foundation upon which to decide that the fitter's margin should be increased by comparison; still less does it point to any particular amount as an appropriate increase. We may mention as one difficulty that we do not know the extent to which the increases in margins in other industries since 1947 were themselves reflections of the increase in the fitter's margin in that year. Indeed, as to the fitter's margin it is generally difficult to re-assess it by relation to the margins of other skilled employees, since the fitter's margin has itself been so often accepted as a key margin for the skilled employee. We mentioned in our earlier reasons that evidence had been tendered as to 'over-award' payments in fact being made in this industry. No further evidence was tendered on this subject and we do not feel able to add anything further to our earlier observations upon it. But our view is that the real mischief which our assessment of the margins in this case is required to cure is that which we believe to exist in the relative position of the margin for the skilled employee in relation to the margin for the unskilled, a state of affairs which we believe is not confined to this industry. In attempting to rectify the relative position of the skilled employee, we cannot overlook the fact that any increase in his margin is likely to have some reflection in the marginal rates of other skilled employees not in this industry. It is particularly because of this fact that in making any increase for the skilled employee we have anxiously considered the state of the economy. Our examination of the economy and our conclusions thereon will be found set out later in these reasons. In attempting to find the true value of the margin for the fitter today, we have not forgotten that the nominal value of his skill must tend to increase with the increase in the nominal prices of essential commodities, a feature which was present in the mind of Kelly J. in the *Printing Trades Case*, as we have indicated. We have concluded that, viewed in the light of present monetary values and in the whole setting of marginal rates, the fitter's margin should now be assessed at 75s. That amount is two and a half times the fitter's 1937 margin. It has not been calculated by adjusting the 30s. margin to any change in the value of money since 1937. But for the benefit of those interested in such comparisons we may mention that the Commonwealth Statistician's "C" series index number for the six capital cities for the December quarter 1936, that

available at the time when Beeby *J.* made his variation order on the 23rd February, 1937, was 862; the comparable number for the September quarter 1954 was 2321; the last-mentioned number is a little more than two and two-thirds times the first. It may be seen therefore, that an award of 75s. per week as the margin for the fitter gives him now only a little below the same purchasing value as his 1937 margin gave if measured by the "C" series index. On this aspect of the matter we may quote the following passage from our earlier reasons in these matters:—

'It is apposite to mention here the many benefits which all or many employees covered by the awards of this Court have received at the instance of the unions since the termination of hostilities in the second world war. These have included the increase in the real value of the basic wage, the extension of paid annual leave, the reduction of the standard ordinary working week from forty-four hours to forty, the increase in so-called "penalty" rates for work performed at the week-end and, speaking generally, the large increases in margins for work which is unskilled or which requires little skill or experience. All of these things not inconsiderably supplemented by over-award payments gained in most cases by the intervention of the unions have, in our opinion, substantially increased wage costs and have thereby contributed to the fall in the value of money on which the claim of the unions for the increase in margins very largely rests in these proceedings.'

"We then proceeded to state that the 'really skilled employee has shared most of these improvements.' In the light of all these circumstances it cannot be regarded as unjust that the really skilled employee's new margin should happen to fall somewhat short in purchasing-power of the margin which was assessed for him in 1937, which we have regarded as a proper 'datum point'."*

"If the margins of the eight classifications set out in the table which earlier appears in these reasons are each multiplied by two and a half, the result is as follows (we include for purposes of comparison the present margin):—

—	1937 margin.	Present margin.	1937 margin multiplied by two and a half.
Duster	50s.	82s. 6d.	125s.
Fitter	30s.	52s.	75s.
Annealer	25s.	42s. 6d.	62s. 6d.
Machinist 2nd class	20s.	37s.	50s.
Machinist 3rd class	14s.	28s.	35s.
Process worker	8s.	22s.	20s.
Racksman	4s.	18s.	10s.
All other labourers	Nil	3s.	Nil
		during first three months in metal trades industry, thereafter 9s.	

* Commonwealth Arbitration Reports, Vol. 80, pp. 31–33.

"It will be seen that as regards the three lowest paid classifications set out in the above table, the multiplication of the 1937 margin by two and a half would produce a result which if awarded would result in a reduction of the present margins. This would seem at first sight logical for complete consistency, but after consideration we have come to the conclusion that we should not reduce any margins simply because they do not accord with the scheme of re-assessment of the higher margins by relation to those prescribed in 1937. It is difficult, perhaps in some cases impossible, to ignore past history in dispensing industrial justice. We do not think that we should ignore, or that we should now attempt wholly to correct, the tendency which has been widespread during and since the recent war to award relatively higher margins to employees with less claims to marginal payments than to those in the upper marginal brackets. Moreover, our assessment of the new margin for the fitter as 75s. per week is, as we have indicated, to a large extent affected by the result of that and other trends.

"As a general rule, therefore, our new assessment of the margins in this industry is to increase the 1937 margins by two and a half. But in cases in which the result of that calculation produces an amount less than the existing margin, the existing margin remains unaltered.

"To this general approach there are, however, some exceptions."*

The Court instanced new classifications inserted since 1937 and margins re-assessed since 1937.

The judgment then proceeded to examine the statistical evidence adduced in relation to the "indicators" of the condition of the economy and concluded:—

"We can do no more than to reach our conclusions in accordance with the general picture as we see it, after pondering to the best of our ability, in the absence of any conclusive evidence being available of the bounds of economic capacity, those aspects of economic capacity of which we have some evidence.

"In fine, we are satisfied that, subject to economic considerations, the adjustments in favour of the more skilled employees' minimum rates, now to be made, ought to be made in accordance with principles of wage-justice. Then, having examined the material at hand, we have come to the conclusion that the economy can support what we have proposed.

"The variations to be made are, of course, of the minimum rates prescribed by the award. Where wages are in fact being paid at higher amounts than the minimum rates which we now prescribe, the order will be understood to be not applicable, that is to say, not effective to increase such over-award payments.

"In the statement published in February the Court endeavoured to make it clear that its judgment was 'not to be read as being determinative, except within the bounds of necessary inference, of matters in the lists of the Court relating to claims and counter-claims concerning the minimum rates of payment which should be fixed for other classes or types of employment than those to which the present references relate.' 'Insofar, however, as it deals with the claim for a general adjustment of marginal rates in accordance alone with variation of the purchasing power of money,' so proceeded the statement, 'what is said here must be understood as being necessarily applicable to all similar claims or submissions.'

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 80, pp. 33-34.

Nevertheless, it is proper, we think, again to emphasise that the decision we are now making deals only with the particular industry with which the references made by the Conciliation Commissioner are concerned. At the same time, we desire to state that what the Court now decides is expected by it to afford general guidance to all authorities operating under the *Conciliation and Arbitration Act*, or under other legislation which provides for a wage or salary-fixing tribunal having power to make references, or being subject to an appeal, to this Court, where the wage or salary may properly be regarded as containing a margin. It is desirable that we should attempt to say a little for the guidance of those authorities and perhaps also of other industrial tribunals which may regard decisions of this Court as of persuasive authority. The matter is of particular importance since we are aware not only that our decision in this case establishes a new and higher standard of margins for skilled employees covered by the Metal Trades award, but also that successive awards in this industry have in the past been regarded as guides for margins in a number of other awards. It is unwise for us to attempt to be too specific, in particular since, as we said in our reasons delivered in these references in February last, 'every claim for an increase in award rates of a marginal nature should be considered in the light of the history of the margin concerned.'

"It must be emphasised that our main purpose in prescribing new and higher margins for the skilled employees in this award has been to restore to some extent their marginal status in relation to the unskilled, and it is obvious that to give the same proportionate increase of existing margins to the unskilled as to the skilled would, generally speaking, destroy that purpose. In cases of awards in which the general marginal pattern has in the past followed that of the Metal Trades award, it would seem that no particular difficulty should be found; in those cases it may be regarded as proper to prescribe a new marginal structure which will accord, *mutatis mutandis*, with the Court's new marginal structure in the Metal Trades award. But in other cases, speaking very generally, the matter may be approached in the following manner. Margins prescribed in 1937, or shortly thereafter, since in some cases the reflection of the increase in 1937 in the Metal Trades award margins may have occurred later, could be multiplied by two and a half; if the result of the calculation is more than the present margin there would seem *prima facie* ground for its increase to that result; if not, *prima facie* there would seem to be no ground. But we emphasise that there may be exceptions to this general approach, particularly in cases of new classifications, or in cases where some change in the nature of the work done, or of the disabilities suffered by a particular class of employees has required a new assessment of margins since 1937 or thereabouts. The margins for such employees must be fitted into their appropriate places in the new scale."*

§ 6. Child Endowment in Australia.

The Commonwealth Government, in June, 1927, called a conference at Melbourne of the Premiers of the several States to consider the question of child endowment from a national standpoint. The Prime Minister submitted

* *Commonwealth Arbitration Reports*, Vol. 80, pp. 53-54.

various estimates of the cost of endowing dependent children under fourteen years of age in Australia at 5s. a week. After discussion, it was decided to refer the matter to a Royal Commission to be appointed by the Commonwealth Government.

The Commission submitted its report on 15th December, 1928. It was not unanimous in its findings, and the opinions and recommendations of the members were embodied in two separate reports, which dealt exhaustively with the constitutional aspects, existing systems, industrial legislation, the basic wage, standard of living, regulation of wages, working conditions and cognate matters.

The findings and recommendations in the *majority* and *minority* reports were given in Labour Report No. 19.

At the conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers held at Canberra in May, 1929, the Prime Minister stated that the Commonwealth Government was not prepared to adopt a scheme financed entirely from the proceeds of taxation, as had been recommended in the minority report. The Commonwealth Government agreed with the majority of the Commission that child endowment could not be separated from the control of the basic wage—a power which the Commonwealth did not possess and which the States were not prepared to relinquish. The Government, therefore, did not propose to establish any system of child endowment.

It was generally agreed that any scheme which would increase the charges upon industry would be unwise at that particular time. The matter of child endowment was accordingly left to be dealt with as the State Governments should think proper.

Early in 1941, the Commonwealth Government announced its intention to introduce a scheme of child endowment throughout Australia. The necessary legislation* was passed and the scheme came into operation from 1st July, 1941. Appropriate steps were then taken for the termination of existing schemes operating in New South Wales and the Commonwealth Public Service. The New South Wales system of child endowment was in operation from July, 1927 to July, 1941, and the Commonwealth Public Service system operated from November, 1920 until July, 1941. Details of these schemes appeared in earlier issues of the Labour Report (*see* No. 36, page 103). From 1st July, 1941, when the Commonwealth Child Endowment scheme was introduced, the rate of endowment was 5s. a week for each child in excess of one in a family and for each child under 16 years in an approved institution, the rate being increased to 7s. 6d. a week from 26th June, 1945, and to 10s. a week from 9th November, 1948. Endowment in respect of the first child under 16 years in a family was first provided for by an amendment of the legislation in June, 1950. As amended to November, 1955 the main features of the scheme are as follows:—

Any person who is a resident of Australia and has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years, or an approved institution of which children are inmates shall be qualified to receive an endowment in respect of each child.

From 20th June, 1950, the rates of endowment have been—

(a) where the endowee has one child only, 5s. a week;

* Act No. 8, 1941 (Child Endowment Act) as amended by No. 5, 1942 and Nos. 10 and 41, 1945 (now Part VI. of the Social Services Act 1947-1957).

- (b) where the endowee has two or more children—in respect of the elder or eldest child, 5s. a week and in respect of each other child, 10s. a week;
- (c) in the case of the endowee being an approved institution the rate is 10s. a week for each child inmate.

There are provisions to cover cases of families divided by reason of divorce, separation, death of a parent or other circumstances. In such cases payment may be made to the father, mother or other person.

A child born during the mother's temporary absence from Australia is deemed to have been born here.

There is a twelve months residential requirement for claimants and children who were not born in Australia, but this is waived if the claimant and the child are likely to remain permanently in Australia.

There is no means test.

Endowment will be paid for the children of members of the naval, military or air forces of the United Kingdom who are serving with the Australian Forces from the time of arrival of the children in Australia.

A summary of the operations of this scheme during each of the years 1952-53 to 1956-57 is given below:—

CHILD ENDOWMENT: AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Endowed Families at 30th June.		Approved Institutions.		Total Number of Endowed Children.
	Number of Claims in Force.	Number of Endowed Children.	Number of Institutions.	Number of Endowed Children.	
1952-53.. ..	1,246,986	2,599,026	376	24,951	2,623,977
1953-54.. ..	1,280,439	2,689,577	387	27,397	2,716,974
1954-55.. ..	1,304,227	2,764,167	392	24,394	2,788,561
1955-56.. ..	1,339,807	2,854,524	392	21,140	2,875,664
1956-57.. ..	1,378,169	2,957,046	397	21,145	2,978,191

Year.	Amount Paid to Endowees and Approved Institutions.	Annual Liability for Endowment at 30th June.	Average Annual Rate of Endowment per Endowed Family at 30th June.	Average Number of Endowed Children per Endowed Family at 30th June.	Number of Endowed Children in each 10,000 of Population.
	£	£	£		
1952-53.. ..	53,243,722	52,012,584	41.190	2.084	2,977
1953-54.. ..	50,760,799	53,995,617	41.613	2.101	3,023
1954-55.. ..	52,529,902	55,547,635	42.104	2.119	3,031
1955-56.. ..	60,380,686	57,349,773	42.394	2.131	3,050
1956-57.. ..	57,586,732	58,966,999	42.388	2.146	3,088

CHAPTER IV.—EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

§ 1. Employment.

1. **General.**—Data on which this section is based are divided into two main categories: (a) Censuses, 1933, 1947, and 1954 and quasi-Censuses; and (b) monthly returns for Pay-roll Tax purposes, supplemented by regular collections of Government employment.

The first quasi-Census was the National Register, July, 1939. It covered males aged 18–64 years and, supplemented by other data, provided estimates for July, 1939. The Civilian Register, June, 1943, and Occupation Survey, June, 1945, covered civilians aged 14 years and over and were supplemented by records of the Defence Forces. Pay-roll Tax returns first became available in July, 1941.

2. **Total Occupied Persons.**—(i) *General.*—In previous issues of the Labour Report estimates of total occupied persons were shown for the years 1933, 1939, 1941, 1943, 1945 and 1947. These estimates were based on data recorded at the Censuses of 1933 and 1947 and the quasi-Censuses of 1939, 1941, 1943 and 1945. Figures based on these quasi-Censuses have been omitted from this issue and comparison shown for the Censuses of 1933, 1947 and 1954. Minor revisions have been made to the figures for the years 1933 and 1947.

(ii) *Australia.*—The figures in the table below are divided into three categories:—(a) defence forces; (b) all persons fully occupied as employers, or as self-employed in businesses or on farms; and (c) wage and salary earners employed, or occupied as casual, part-time, intermittent or seasonal workers. Unemployed wage earners are excluded.

All unpaid “helpers” in non-rural industry have been included with wage and salary earners. Male unpaid “helpers” in rural industry have been included with employers and self-employed persons, as it is considered that the majority of these are sons or other close relatives of farmers working in *de facto* partnership, or as learners with the farm owner. Unpaid female “helpers” on farms are fairly numerous. Generally they are occupied mainly in home duties, and, with all other women occupied in unpaid home duties, have been excluded from the category of occupied persons.

TOTAL OCCUPIED PERSONS: AUSTRALIA, CENSUSES 1933, 1947 AND 1954. (‘000.)

30th June.	Defence Forces. (a)	Employers and Self-employed.			Wage and Salary Earners.			Total Occupied Civilians.	Total Occupied Persons, including Defence Forces. (a)	
		Rural Industry.	Other Industries.	Total.	Rural Industry.	Other Industries.	Total.			
MALES.										
1933	..	5.8	293.5	249.0	542.5	200.1	989.8	1189.9	1732.4	1738.2
1947	..	53.2	278.9	286.8	565.7	148.2	1659.4	1807.6	2373.3	2426.5
1954	..	(b)50.9	279.2	316.9	596.1	154.2	2020.3	2174.5	2770.6	2821.5
FEMALES.										
1933	15.2	56.3	71.5	3.2	(c)446.6	449.8	521.3	521.3
1947	..	0.8	13.8	55.8	69.6	8.1	d659.9	668.0	737.6	738.4
1954	..	2.0	19.6	62.1	81.7	7.6	735.4	743.0	824.7	826.7
PERSONS.										
1933	..	5.8	308.7	305.3	614.0	203.3	1436.4	1639.7	2253.7	2259.5
1947	..	54.0	292.7	342.6	635.3	156.3	2319.3	2475.6	3110.9	3164.9
1954	..	52.9	298.8	379.0	677.8	161.8	2755.7	2917.5	3595.3	3648.2

(a) Includes those serving outside Australia. (b) Excludes approximately 10,300 males undergoing full-time National Service Training at the time of the Census. With the exception of full-time students these persons have been included in the figures of occupied civilians. (c) Includes females in private domestic service:—106,700 in 1933, 40,200 in 1947 and 29,600 in 1954. (d) Includes an estimate of 40,400 part-time workers considered to be under-enumerated at the Census.

The numbers of males in the defence forces shown in the foregoing table include personnel serving outside Australia, namely, 13,843 in 1947 and 5,903 in 1954, who were not recorded at the Censuses taken in those years.

During the fourteen years from 1933 to 1947 the number of persons actually occupied at work increased by 905,400, or by an average of 64,700 persons per annum, whilst during the seven years from 1947 to 1954 the increase amounted to 483,300 or 69,000 per annum. Practically all of the increase in the number of occupied persons during the years 1947 to 1954 was due to growth of the total available work force. During the previous intercensal period (1933 to 1947) the increase in the number of persons occupied comprised approximately 400,000 persons who had been unemployed in 1933 and approximately 500,000 growth in the total available work force.

The total numbers of employers, self-employed and wage earners of both sexes classified at the Census as engaged in agricultural, pastoral and dairying industries declined from 512,000 in 1933 to 460,700 in 1954. There was very little movement in the figures between 1947 and 1954.

The proportion of male employers and self-employed in industries other than rural declined from 20.1 per cent. of occupied civilian males in these industries in 1933 to 14.7 per cent. in 1947, and 13.6 per cent. in 1954. The corresponding proportion of female employers and self-employed declined from 11.2 per cent. in 1933 to 7.8 per cent. in 1947, and remained constant at 7.8 per cent. in 1954. The increase in the numbers of male employers and self-employed in non-rural industries during the years 1947 to 1954 averaged only 4,300 per annum. The average increase during the same period in the number of male wage earners in these industries was 51,600 per annum.

(iii) *States.*—The following table shows the total numbers of occupied males and females in each State and Territory at the Censuses of 1947 and 1954, classified as defence forces, employers and self-employed persons, and wage and salary earners.

TOTAL OCCUPIED PERSONS: STATES AND TERRITORIES,
CENSUSES, 1947 AND 1954.

State or Territory.	Defence Forces. (a)		Employers and Self-employed.		Wage and Salary Earners.		Total Occupied Persons, including Defence Forces. (a)	
	June, 1947.	June, 1954. (b)	June, 1947.	June, 1954.	June, 1947.	June, 1954.	June, 1947.	June, 1954.
MALES.								
New South Wales ..	23.1	21.4	197.5	207.3	728.1	833.7	948.7	1062.4
Victoria ..	15.9	15.0	158.1	167.1	490.5	596.9	664.5	779.0
Queensland ..	5.9	6.6	96.9	99.7	252.0	307.4	354.8	413.7
South Australia ..	2.6	2.3	51.8	55.5	153.3	194.1	207.7	251.9
Western Australia ..	3.4	3.1	39.8	44.3	116.6	156.1	159.8	203.5
Tasmania ..	0.8	0.8	20.1	20.2	57.8	71.9	78.7	92.9
Northern Territory ..	0.8	0.7	1.0	1.1	4.0	5.8	5.8	7.6
Aust. Capital Territory	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.9	5.3	8.6	6.5	10.5
Australia ..	53.2	50.9	565.7	596.1	1807.6	2174.5	2426.5	2821.5

(a) Includes those serving outside Australia. (b) Excludes approximately 10,300 males undergoing full-time National Service Training at the time of the Census. See also footnotes to previous table.

**TOTAL OCCUPIED PERSONS: STATES AND TERRITORIES,
CENSUSES, 1947 AND 1954—continued.**

State or Territory.	Defence Forces. (a)		Employers and Self-employed.		Wage and Salary Earners.		Total Occupied Persons, including Defence Forces. (a)	
	June, 1947.	June, 1954. (b)	June, 1947.	June, 1954.	June, 1947.	June, 1954.	June, 1947.	June, 1954.
FEMALES.								
New South Wales ..	0.3	0.5	25.4	29.0	268.6	290.6	294.3	320.1
Victoria ..	0.4	0.8	22.5	25.3	202.0	227.0	224.9	253.1
Queensland ..	0.1	0.2	10.2	12.5	83.9	93.1	94.2	105.8
South Australia ..	..	0.1	5.2	7.0	52.9	59.9	58.1	67.0
Western Australia ..	..	0.1	4.3	5.6	39.2	46.6	43.5	52.3
Tasmania ..	..	0.1	1.8	2.1	18.9	21.7	20.7	23.9
Northern Territory ..	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7	1.3	0.8	1.5
Aust. Capital Territory ..	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.8	2.8	1.9	3.0
Australia ..	0.8	2.0	69.6	81.7	668.0	743.0	738.4	826.7

PERSONS.								
New South Wales ..	23.4	21.9	222.9	236.3	996.7	1124.3	1243.0	1382.5
Victoria ..	16.3	15.8	180.6	192.4	692.5	823.9	889.4	1032.1
Queensland ..	6.0	6.8	107.1	112.2	335.9	400.5	449.0	519.5
South Australia ..	2.6	2.4	57.0	62.5	206.2	254.0	265.8	318.9
Western Australia ..	3.4	3.2	44.1	49.9	155.8	202.7	203.3	255.8
Tasmania ..	0.8	0.9	21.9	22.3	76.7	93.6	99.4	116.8
Northern Territory ..	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.2	4.7	7.1	6.6	9.1
Aust. Capital Territory ..	0.7	1.1	0.6	1.0	7.1	11.4	8.4	13.5
Australia ..	54.0	52.9	635.3	677.8	2475.6	2917.5	3164.9	3648.2

(a) Includes those serving outside Australia. (b) Excludes approximately 10,300 males undergoing full-time National Service Training at the time of the Census. See also footnotes to previous table.

The occupied population of Australia (including defence forces but excluding unemployed, pensioners, retired, persons of independent means and dependants) increased from 1947 to 1954 by 15.3 per cent. The percentage increase in each State and Territory was as follows:—New South Wales, 11.2; Victoria, 16.0; Queensland, 15.7; South Australia, 20.0; Western Australia, 25.8; Tasmania, 17.5; Northern Territory, 37.9; and Australian Capital Territory, 60.7.

3. Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment.—(i) *General.*—Monthly estimates of the number of wage and salary earners in civilian employment (excluding employees in rural industry and female private domestics) are made by varying benchmark data obtained from a Census or quasi-Census on the basis of the movement in employment recorded on Pay-roll Tax returns, annual Censuses of Factory Production and returns of Government employment. Monthly estimates are available from July, 1941, when Pay-roll Tax commenced. The figures at July, 1939 are based on the National Register.

Employment recorded on Pay-roll Tax returns at present covers approximately 80 per cent. of the estimated number of wage and salary earners in civilian employment (excluding employees in rural industry and female private domestics). Pay-roll Tax returns are lodged by all employers paying more than £200 a week in wages, other than certain Commonwealth Government Bodies, religious and benevolent institutions, public hospitals and other similar organizations specifically exempted under the Pay-roll Tax Assessment Act 1941-1957.

(ii) *Australia: Industrial Groups.*—The table shows total male and female wage and salary earners in civilian employment (excluding employees in rural industry, female private domestics, persons on the paid strength of the defence forces and National Service trainees in camp) subdivided to show the extent of employment provided by Government bodies and by private employers respectively. Principal industrial groups shown in the table include both private employees and Government employees, if any. (Current figures are published in the *Monthly Bulletin of Employment Statistics*.) The manufacturing employment figures in this table are not comparable as to either absolute level or trend with those shown on pp. 115 and 116 below.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT: INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.(a)

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Private Domestics, Personnel in Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.)

(‘000.)

Industrial Group.	July, 1939.	June, 1953.	June, 1954.	June, 1955.	June, 1956.	June, 1957.
MALES.						
Mining and Quarrying	52.2	58.0	58.7	58.3	57.3	56.3
Manufacturing, etc. (b)	456.1	726.4	756.8	777.2	786.3	786.5
Building and Construction	149.7	193.2	205.7	211.8	214.6	207.3
Transport(c)	158.2	235.7	238.7	244.7	245.9	245.1
Communication	27.7	59.4	61.4	64.0	64.5	67.9
Property and Finance	47.1	56.4	57.9	59.6	61.7	64.0
Retail Trade	212.6	125.0	128.4	129.2	129.9	129.4
Wholesale and other Commerce	31.8	134.6	140.4	147.5	151.0	150.0
Public Authority Activity, n.e.i.	17.8	97.9	97.5	99.2	100.6	101.7
Health	22.1	25.5	25.9	26.0	26.8	27.1
Education	37.0	35.4	36.7	38.7	40.8	43.4
Personal Service	80.8	51.6	52.1	54.3	54.4	54.7
Other(d)	87.7	88.2	90.0	92.1	93.0	93.0
Total	1,293.1	1,886.8	1,948.4	2,000.5	2,025.9	2,026.4
Government(e)	349.8	567.8	581.4	599.1	604.9	609.5
Private	943.3	1,319.0	1,367.0	1,401.4	1,421.0	1,416.9
Total	1,293.1	1,886.8	1,948.4	2,000.5	2,025.9	2,026.4

For footnotes see next page.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT: INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA(a)—continued.

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Private Domestics, Personnel in Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.)

('000.)

Industrial Group.	July, 1939.	June, 1953.	June, 1954.	June, 1955.	June, 1956.	June, 1957.
FEMALES.						
Mining and Quarrying	0.3	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2
Manufacturing, etc.(b)	169.0	209.8	226.8	232.5	235.7	233.0
Building and Construction	1.2	4.3	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.3
Transport(c)	5.2	18.3	18.7	19.7	20.7	20.4
Communication	7.4	17.9	17.8	18.7	19.4	19.7
Property and Finance	13.5	32.4	34.7	38.1	41.8	43.5
Retail Trade	101.4	109.9	115.3	121.6	122.9	121.3
Wholesale and other Commerce						
Public Authority Activity, n.e.i.	10.0	27.4	27.3	28.6	29.1	29.2
Health	34.0	68.8	70.8	73.5	77.6	79.4
Education	32.0	43.3	44.9	47.9	50.5	53.8
Personal Service	43.0	65.8	67.0	69.6	70.2	69.5
Other(d)	20.1	35.8	36.2	37.3	38.4	39.3
Total	437.1	673.7	707.5	738.5	758.9	762.4
Government(e)	55.2	112.0	114.5	122.8	129.8	132.8
Private	381.9	561.7	593.0	615.7	629.1	629.6
Total	437.1	673.7	707.5	738.5	758.9	762.4

PERSONS.

Mining and Quarrying	52.5	58.9	59.7	59.4	58.5	57.5
Manufacturing, etc.(b)	625.1	936.2	983.6	1,009.7	1,022.0	1,019.5
Building and Construction	150.9	197.5	210.4	216.7	219.7	212.6
Transport(c)	163.4	254.0	257.4	264.4	266.6	265.5
Communication	35.1	77.3	79.2	82.7	83.9	87.6
Property and Finance	60.6	88.8	92.6	97.7	103.5	107.5
Retail Trade	314.0	234.9	243.7	250.8	252.8	250.7
Wholesale and other Commerce						
Public Authority Activity, n.e.i.	41.8	125.3	124.8	127.8	129.7	130.9
Health	51.8	94.3	96.7	99.5	104.4	106.5
Education	54.1	78.7	81.6	86.6	91.3	97.2
Personal Service	80.0	117.4	119.1	123.9	124.6	124.2
Other(d)	100.9	123.5	124.4	127.3	130.5	132.3
Total	1,730.2	2,560.5	2,655.9	2,739.0	2,784.8	2,788.8
Government(e)	405.0	679.8	695.9	721.9	734.7	742.3
Private	1,325.2	1,880.7	1,960.0	2,017.1	2,050.1	2,046.5
Total	1,730.2	2,560.5	2,655.9	2,739.0	2,784.8	2,788.8

(a) Figures for June, 1953 to June, 1957 are subject to revision. (b) Pay-roll series, subject to revision. Includes employees engaged in selling and distribution, who are outside the scope of the factory employment figures as defined and published on pp. 114-6. (c) Includes road transport; shipping and stevedoring; rail and air transport. (d) Includes forestry, fishing and trapping; law and order; religion and social welfare; other professional; entertainment, sport and recreation. (e) Includes employees of Commonwealth, State, Semi-Government and Local Government bodies. For further details see p. 116.

During the year ended June, 1957 the total increase in the numbers of wage and salary earners in civilian employment (excluding wage earners in rural industry, female private domestics and personnel in defence forces) was 4,200 (males 600; females 3,600). Employees of Government bodies increased by 7,800 (males 4,700; females 3,100) and those employed by private employers decreased by 3,600 (males, a decrease of 4,100; females, an increase of 500).

During this period the more important increases in employment were recorded in the following industrial groups:—Education, 6,100; property and finance, 4,000; communication, 3,700; and health, 2,100. Building and construction decreased by 7,100, manufacturing by 2,500 and retail trade by 2,100.

(iii) *States*.—Statistics of total employment of wage and salary earners (excluding rural and female private domestic employment and defence forces) since 1933 are shown for each State in the next table.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT: STATES.

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Private Domestics, Personnel in Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.)

('000.)

Year and Month.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia. (a)
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MALES.

1933—June ..	380.6	288.6	139.8	80.5	70.1	29.0	992.0
1939—July ..	529.9	357.5	172.8	106.7	82.9	37.4	1293.1
1941—November ..	556.8	405.1	167.9	121.9	83.2	39.4	1381.4
1951—June(b) ..	758.2	525.8	259.3	170.0	125.3	60.2	1911.5
1952—June(b) ..	754.4	524.4	258.1	171.5	126.0	61.0	1908.1
1953—June(b) ..	734.3	521.6	255.2	170.6	130.2	61.8	1886.8
1954—June(b) ..	758.1	539.7	263.7	176.0	135.0	62.8	1948.4
1955—June(b) ..	779.2	556.7	272.0	178.7	136.4	64.0	2000.5
1956—June(b) ..	787.8	564.2	276.0	184.5	135.5	64.4	2025.9
1957—June(b) ..	789.5	565.0	275.8	182.9	133.6	65.2	2026.4

FEMALES.

1933—June ..	125.8	118.2	40.5	26.0	20.6	9.1	340.8
1939—July ..	168.0	142.9	53.2	34.0	26.2	11.6	437.1
1941—November ..	229.3	192.8	62.6	45.6	32.6	15.2	579.8
1951—June(b) ..	290.9	219.6	86.1	57.0	41.6	20.3	718.8
1952—June(b) ..	270.5	206.6	83.8	54.9	40.5	19.8	679.4
1953—June(b) ..	266.2	205.9	83.7	53.4	41.0	20.1	673.7
1954—June(b) ..	279.5	217.7	86.1	56.9	42.8	21.0	707.5
1955—June(b) ..	292.5	227.0	89.3	60.2	43.9	21.7	738.5
1956—June(b) ..	300.2	233.0	91.2	62.9	44.6	22.8	758.9
1957—June(b) ..	302.2	233.4	92.8	62.8	44.2	22.6	762.4

PERSONS.

1933—June ..	506.4	406.8	180.3	106.5	90.7	38.1	1332.8
1939—July ..	697.9	500.4	226.0	140.7	109.1	49.0	1730.2
1941—November ..	786.1	597.9	230.5	167.5	115.8	54.6	1961.2
1951—June(b) ..	1049.1	745.4	345.4	227.0	166.9	80.5	2630.3
1952—June(b) ..	1024.9	731.0	341.9	226.4	166.5	80.8	2587.5
1953—June(b) ..	1000.5	727.5	338.9	224.0	171.2	81.9	2560.5
1954—June(b) ..	1037.6	757.4	349.8	232.9	177.8	83.8	2655.9
1955—June(b) ..	1071.7	783.7	361.3	238.9	180.3	85.7	2739.0
1956—June(b) ..	1088.0	797.2	367.2	247.4	180.1	87.2	2784.8
1957—June(b) ..	1091.7	798.4	368.6	245.7	177.8	87.8	2788.8

(a) Includes the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

(b) Subject to revision.

In all States except Queensland the number of male wage and salary earners in civilian employment, excluding rural, was higher in November, 1941 than at the outbreak of war. The male employment level then commenced to decline and continued to do so in most States until the December quarter, 1943. In Queensland, however, the downward movement was very small. There was then a general, though slight, upward trend (except in South Australia) until the end of the war. Demobilization of the defence forces resulted in a rapid increase in male employment in all States in 1945-46 and 1946-47. Male employment in each State continued to increase during each of the next four years, reaching a peak of 1,923,700 in March, 1952. During 1952-53, however, the numbers employed fell continuously to 1,857,800 in January, 1953. From February, 1953 male employment rose steadily and in March, 1954 the previous peak was passed. From March, 1954 to June, 1956 the estimated number of male wage and salary earners in employment increased in all States except Western Australia, where the level at June, 1956 was slightly below that recorded at June, 1955. However, from June, 1956 to June, 1957 male employment fell in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia and rose only slightly in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. A new peak in male employment for Australia of 2,029,000 was recorded in March, 1957.

After the outbreak of war, female civilian wage and salary earners (excluding rural workers and domestics in private homes) increased rapidly in all States. The peak level during the war (646,000) was reached in December, 1943. From June to December, 1943 there was only a slight total increase. Victoria and South Australia had already passed their respective peaks of female employment. In January, 1946 female employment reached its lowest level (588,400) since January, 1942, having declined in all States after the end of the war, particularly in Victoria and South Australia. From January, 1946 female employment increased in all States and in May, 1949 had passed the war-time peak. The initial post-war peak of 724,000 recorded in November, 1951 was followed by a steady decline to 664,200 in January, 1953. Recovery was slow in the first half of 1953, but from then until June, 1956 there was a steady increase in all States. However, from June, 1956 to June, 1957 female employment fell in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania and rose only slightly in the other three States.

(iv) *Factories*.—In the following table is shown the mid-year number of employees in the main factory classes in each of the years 1953 to 1956 compared with 1939. The figures refer to the reported employment in factories as defined for the purposes of the annual production census, results of which are published in the annual bulletin, *Secondary Industries*. In this connexion a factory is defined as an industrial establishment in which four or more persons are employed, or in which power other than manual is used. The employees covered are those engaged in manufacturing activities and exclude working proprietors and those engaged in selling and distribution, etc.

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES ACCORDING TO MAIN CLASSES: AUSTRALIA.

('000.)

Class of Factory.	Number of Employees in June—				
	1939.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.
MALES.					
Treatment of Non-metalliferous Mine and					
Quarry Products	9.8	17.0	17.9	19.2	19.2
Bricks, Pottery, Glass	14.3	18.7	20.3	20.7	20.1
Chemicals, Oils, Paints, etc.	14.6	27.7	30.1	32.7	34.7
Metals, Machines, Vehicles, etc.	161.6	337.6	357.9	374.8	387.3
Jewellery, Watches, etc.	2.8	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.1
Textiles (including knitted goods)	18.3	28.3	29.7	27.9	28.8
Skins and Leather	8.0	10.9	10.6	10.4	9.9
Clothing (including shoes)	19.1	28.3	28.5	27.9	27.3
Food, Drink and Tobacco	57.6	85.8	88.3	89.2	87.8
Sawmilling and Woodworking	27.5	50.5	52.2	54.3	53.8
Cabinet Making, Furniture, etc.	11.2	15.7	15.9	16.3	15.6
Paper, Printing, etc.	26.7	38.4	41.2	43.0	45.1
Rubber	4.9	10.6	12.0	13.1	13.7
Musical Instruments and Miscellaneous Manu- factures	5.4	12.9	13.5	13.6	14.3
Heat, Light and Power	9.2	15.1	15.7	16.2	16.3
Total	391.0	701.5	738.0	763.5	778.0

FEMALES.

Treatment of Non-metalliferous Mine and					
Quarry Products	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9
Bricks, Pottery, Glass	0.8	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.0
Chemicals, Oils, Paints, etc.	5.7	8.2	9.3	10.1	10.5
Metals, Machines, Vehicles, etc.	9.4	32.8	38.3	43.4	45.1
Jewellery, Watches, etc.	0.5	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2
Textiles (including knitted goods)	27.2	36.8	39.5	38.3	39.1
Skins and Leather	2.5	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.2
Clothing (including shoes)	61.3	73.1	77.9	76.5	75.8
Food, Drink and Tobacco	20.9	25.6	28.4	29.3	29.5
Sawmilling and Woodworking	0.9	2.4	2.6	2.8	3.0
Cabinet Making, Furniture, etc.	2.7	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.6
Paper, Printing, etc.	11.6	13.5	15.3	16.2	17.0
Rubber	2.3	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.5
Musical Instruments and Miscellaneous Manu- factures	2.4	6.5	7.1	7.6	7.9
Heat, Light and Power	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Total	148.6	211.6	232.0	238.5	242.5

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES ACCORDING TO MAIN CLASSES:
AUSTRALIA—*continued*.

('000.)

Class of Factory.	Number of Employees in June—				
	1939.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.
PERSONS.					
Treatment of Non-metalliferous Mine and Quarry Products	10.0	17.7	18.6	20.0	20.1
Bricks, Pottery, Glass	15.1	20.4	22.2	22.7	22.1
Chemicals, Oils, Paints, etc.	20.3	35.9	39.4	42.8	45.2
Metals, Machines, Vehicles, etc.	171.0	370.4	396.2	418.2	432.4
Jewellery, Watches, etc.	3.3	5.1	5.4	5.3	5.3
Textiles (including knitted goods)	45.5	65.1	69.2	66.2	67.9
Skins and Leather	10.5	13.9	13.8	13.6	13.1
Clothing (including shoes)	80.4	101.4	106.4	104.4	103.1
Food, Drink and Tobacco	78.5	111.4	116.7	118.5	117.3
Sawmilling and Woodworking	28.4	52.9	54.8	57.1	56.8
Cabinet Making, Furniture, etc.	13.9	18.8	19.1	19.9	19.2
Paper, Printing, etc.	38.3	51.9	56.5	59.2	62.1
Rubber	7.2	13.6	15.3	16.6	17.2
Musical Instruments and Miscellaneous Manu- factures	7.8	19.4	20.6	21.2	22.2
Heat, Light and Power	9.4	15.2	15.8	16.3	16.5
Total	539.6	913.1	970.0	1002.0	1020.5

4. **Government Employees.**—(i) *Australia.*—The following table shows at June in each of the years 1953 to 1957 in comparison with 1939, the number of civilian employees of Commonwealth, State and Semi-Government and Local Government bodies. These include all employees of Government bodies on services such as railways, tramways, banks, post office, air transport, education, broadcasting, police, public works, factories and munitions establishments, migrant hostels, etc., as well as administrative employees, within Australia.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT BODIES (a), AUSTRALIA.

June—	Commonwealth.			State and Semi-Government.			Local Government.			Total.		
	Males.	Fe- males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe- males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe- males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe- males.	Persons.
1939(b)	56,099	11,764	67,863	235,066	40,586	275,652	58,637	2,887	61,524	349,802	55,237	405,039
1953 ..	159,002	41,571	200,573	349,096	65,129	414,225	59,641	5,315	64,956	567,739	112,015	679,754
1954 ..	156,604	41,579	198,183	363,095	67,466	430,561	61,643	5,493	67,136	581,342	114,538	695,880
1955 ..	160,840	44,291	205,131	373,238	72,728	445,966	65,026	5,771	70,797	599,104	122,790	721,894
1956 ..	162,314	46,114	208,428	377,077	77,587	454,664	65,558	6,138	71,696	604,949	129,839	734,788
1957 ..	165,566	45,612	211,178	378,055	80,825	458,880	65,854	6,376	72,230	609,475	132,813	742,288

(a) See explanation above.

(b) July.

(ii) *States and Territories.*—The number of civilian employees of Commonwealth, State and Semi-Government and Local Government bodies in June, 1956 and 1957 is shown in the following table.

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT BODIES(a), JUNE, 1956 AND 1957.

State or Territory.	Commonwealth.			State and Semi-Government.			Local Government.			Total.		
	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.
JUNE, 1956.												
N.S.W.	55,277	15,243	70,520	134,716	26,147	160,863	26,687	2,861	29,548	216,680	44,251	260,931
Vic. ..	50,745	16,192	66,937	96,178	23,965	120,143	13,088	1,550	14,638	160,011	41,707	201,718
Qld. ..	17,784	4,709	22,493	56,324	7,725	64,049	17,084	933	18,017	91,192	13,367	104,559
S.A. ..	15,732	3,613	19,345	38,395	9,459	47,854	3,002	305	3,307	57,129	13,377	70,506
W.A. ..	8,994	2,197	11,191	37,804	6,519	44,323	3,499	323	3,822	50,297	9,039	59,336
Tas. ..	4,371	1,259	5,630	13,660	3,772	17,432	2,198	166	2,364	20,229	5,197	25,426
N.T. ..	2,441	613	3,054	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,441	613	3,054
A.C.T.	6,970	2,288	9,258	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,970	2,288	9,258
Aust.	162,314	46,114	208,428	377,077	77,587	454,664	65,558	6,138	71,696	604,949	129,839	734,788
JUNE, 1957.												
N.S.W.	56,151	15,379	71,530	134,086	27,011	161,097	26,733	2,888	29,621	216,970	45,278	262,248
Vic. ..	50,321	15,177	65,498	99,157	25,195	124,352	13,221	1,766	14,987	162,699	42,138	204,837
Qld. ..	18,191	4,809	23,000	54,469	8,002	62,471	17,215	907	18,122	89,875	13,718	103,593
S.A. ..	17,118	3,644	20,762	38,593	9,864	48,457	3,148	313	3,461	58,859	13,821	72,680
W.A. ..	9,082	2,197	11,279	37,822	6,790	44,612	3,392	328	3,720	50,296	9,315	59,611
Tas. ..	4,564	1,309	5,873	13,928	3,963	17,891	2,145	174	2,319	20,637	5,446	26,083
N.T. ..	2,796	675	3,471	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,796	675	3,471
A.C.T.	7,343	2,422	9,765	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,343	2,422	9,765
Aust.	165,566	45,612	211,178	378,055	80,825	458,880	65,854	6,376	72,230	609,475	132,813	742,288

(a) See explanation on p. 116.

§ 2. Unemployment.

The total number of persons unemployed has been recorded only at the dates of the various Censuses. The following table sets out the number of unemployed at each Census from 1933 to 1954. The percentage of unemployed at each date to all wage and salary earners, comprising those estimated to be in employment and those unemployed, is also shown.

UNEMPLOYMENT (ALL CAUSES): AUSTRALIA, CENSUSES, 1933, 1947 AND 1954.

Date.	Wage and Salary Earners Unemployed. (‘000.)			Proportion of Wage and Salary Earners Unemployed. (Per cent.)		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
June, 1933(a) ..	405.4	75.8	481.2	25.4	14.5	22.7
June, 1947(b) ..	66.6	16.9	83.5	3.5	2.5	3.2
June, 1954(b) ..	41.0	14.0	55.0	1.8	1.9	1.8

(a) As recorded at the Census. In addition, there were considerable numbers of youths and young women of working ages who had never been employed and were not at work at the time of the Census.
(b) Persons in the work force who were not at work at the time of the Census.

In the following table males and females "not at work" are classified according to cause for the Census years 1933, 1947 and 1954. In 1947 there was a change in the form of the questionnaire, which probably resulted in some variation in response. Prior to 1947, persons who were "unemployed" were requested to furnish particulars of the cause and duration of unemployment, but from 1947 onwards the enquiry was broadened to include all persons (usually engaged in industry, business, trade, profession or service) who were out of a job and "not at work" at the time of the Census for whatever reason, including any not normally associated with unemployment.

**CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT: AUSTRALIA, CENSUSES, 1933, 1947
AND 1954.**

Year.	Unable to Secure Em- ployment.	Tempor- arily Laid Off.	Illness.	Accident.	Industrial Dispute.	Other and Not Stated.	Total.
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MALES.

1933	..	374,569	(a)	18,083	4,702	1,595	6,483	405,432
1947	..	17,314	12,458	14,639	2,985	475	(b)18,743	66,614
1954	..	9,089	4,056	10,894	2,571	316	(b)14,088	41,014

FEMALES.

1933	..	62,630	(a)	9,193	434	95	3,465	75,817
1947	..	2,254	2,449	4,396	280	24	(b) 7,512	16,915
1954	..	3,369	1,267	3,939	291	15	(b) 5,119	14,000

PERSONS.

1933	..	437,199	(a)	27,276	5,136	1,690	9,948	481,249
1947	..	19,568	14,907	19,035	3,265	499	(b)26,255	83,529
1954	..	12,458	5,323	14,833	2,862	331	(b)19,207	55,014

(a) Not available.

(b) The majority of these persons were resting between jobs or changing jobs.

Details of the number of persons receiving unemployment benefit and of the payments made may be found on p. 122.

§ 3. Commonwealth Employment Service.

The Commonwealth Employment Service was established under section 47 of the Re-establishment and Employment Act 1945. The principal functions of the Service, as set out in section 48 of this Act, are to provide services and facilities for the benefit of persons seeking employment or to change employment, or to engage labour, and to provide facilities to assist in bringing about and maintaining a high and stable level of employment throughout the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Employment Service operates within the Employment Division of the Department of Labour and National Service, and is under the control of the permanent head of that Department. The Central Office is in Melbourne, and there is a Regional Office in the capital city of each State, with 120 District Employment Offices in suburban and the larger provincial centres and 340 agents in the smaller country centres. The District Employment Offices are distributed as follows:—New South Wales, 45; Victoria, 30; Queensland, 19; South Australia, 8; Western Australia, 12; Tasmania, 4; Northern Territory, 1; Australian Capital Territory, 1.

The Commonwealth Employment Service provides special assistance for persons with physical and mental handicaps, older workers, rural workers, youths and persons with professional and technical qualifications, to obtain employment.

It assists in the administration of the unemployment and sickness benefit provisions of the Social Services Act 1947–1957, and of the re-employment allowance provisions of the Re-establishment and Employment Act 1945–1956 for certain classes of discharged members of the forces. All persons who wish to claim unemployment benefits or re-employment allowances are required to register at a District Employment Office, which is responsible for certifying whether or not suitable employment can be offered to them.

Vocational guidance is provided free of charge in each State, other than New South Wales, by a staff of qualified psychologists. (In New South Wales a similar service is provided by officers of the New South Wales Department of Labour and Industry.) Vocational guidance is available to any person, but is provided particularly for young people, ex-servicemen and the physically handicapped.

The Service is responsible for placing in employment all Commonwealth-nominated migrant workers coming to Australia under the assisted passage schemes from the United Kingdom and other countries, and, as required, it provides assistance to other migrants wishing to obtain employment. When migrants coming under Commonwealth nomination arrive in Australia, the Service arranges for them to move to their initial employment and for their admission, if necessary, to Commonwealth-controlled hostels. From the inception of the various free and assisted schemes, including the Displaced Persons Scheme, to the end of July, 1956, more than 150,000 British and European migrant workers had been placed in employment by the Commonwealth Employment Service.

Since 1951, the Service has been responsible for recruiting experts for the Colombo Plan and the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The principal spheres in which experts have been supplied are agriculture, education, engineering, geology, health and economic and scientific research and development.

In association with its placement activities, the Service carries out regular surveys of the labour market in all areas and industries and supplies detailed information to interested Commonwealth and State Government Departments and instrumentalities and to the public. It also advises employers, employees and others on labour availability and employment opportunities in various occupations and areas and on other matters concerning employment.

The Commonwealth Employment Service is responsible for the medical examination and interview of young men for training in the armed forces under the National Service Act 1951–1953, which is administered by the Department of Labour and National Service. The Department also administers the provisions of the Act relating to the protection of the rights of National Service trainees in relation to their civil employment.

The Service completed its tenth year of operation in May, 1956. During the year ended June, 1956 there were 576,958 new registrations of applicants for employment, of whom 445,253 were referred to employers and 312,105 placed in employment, and 434,347 new vacancies were notified. Vacancies unfilled at the end of June, 1956 numbered 32,473.

With the setting up of the Commonwealth Employment Service, most of the State Labour Exchange Organizations existing previously were superseded. Details of the organization and administration of these exchanges in the several States were given in Labour Report No. 30, p. 133.

§ 4. Commonwealth Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.

1. **General.**—The Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act 1944, which is now incorporated in the Social Services Act 1947–1957, was a very important addition to Commonwealth social legislation.

Since 1st July, 1945, men over 16 and under 65 years of age, and women over 16 and under 60 years of age and qualified in other respects, have been eligible to apply for an unemployment benefit or a sickness benefit. There is a twelve months' residential requirement but this is waived if the claimant is likely to remain permanently in Australia. A person in receipt of an age, invalid or widow's pension, or a service pension (as distinct from a war pension) under the Repatriation Act, or a tuberculosis allowance is ineligible to receive a benefit.

To qualify for an unemployment benefit, a person must establish that he is unemployed and that his unemployment is not due to his being a direct participant in a strike, that he is capable and willing to undertake suitable work, and that he has taken reasonable steps to obtain such work. Registration with the local Commonwealth District Employment Officer is necessary.

To qualify for sickness benefit, a person must establish that he is temporarily incapacitated for work by reason of sickness or accident and that he has thereby suffered a loss of salary, wages or other income.

A married woman is not eligible to receive a sickness benefit if it is reasonably possible for her husband to maintain her. Where her husband is able to maintain her only partially, a benefit may be paid at such rate as is considered reasonable in the circumstances. In exceptional cases, a married woman may qualify for an unemployment benefit in her own right.

The maximum weekly rates of benefit payable and permissible income from 22nd September, 1952 are as follows:—

Age and Marital Status of Claimant.	Maximum Weekly Benefit Payable.		Permissible Weekly Income.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Person over 21 years of age }	2	10 0	1	0 0
Married person under 21 years of age }	2	0 0	15	0
Unmarried person 18-20 years of age }	1	10 0	10	0
Unmarried person 17 years of age }	1	10 0	5	0
Unmarried person 16 years of age }				

An additional benefit of £2 a week may be paid for a dependent spouse and 5s. for one dependent child under 16 years of age. If no allowance is paid for a dependent spouse, a similar benefit may be paid for a claimant's house-keeper, provided there are one or more children under 16 years of age in the home and the woman is substantially dependent on the claimant but is not employed by him.

The weekly rate of benefit is reduced by the amount by which a beneficiary's income from sources other than his pension exceeds the amount shown in the final column of the relevant line in the above table. For unemployment benefit purposes, the incomes of the claimant and his spouse are taken into account, unless they are permanently separated. For sickness benefit purposes, the income of the claimant only is taken into account, while up to £2 a week is disregarded of any payment received from an approved friendly society or other similar approved body in respect of the incapacity for which sickness benefit is payable. "Income" does not include child endowment, or other payments in respect of children, the Commonwealth hospital benefits and pharmaceutical benefits, or a tuberculosis allowance or an amount paid in reimbursement of medical, dental or similar expenses actually paid. There is no means test on property.

Where a person qualified for sickness benefit receives or is entitled to receive (in respect of the same period and the same incapacity for which sickness benefit is payable) any payment by way of compensation (including workers' compensation), damages, or otherwise under any law (except payments for which he has contributed), the amount of the compensation, etc., is not taken into account as income but the payment (or its weekly equivalent) is deducted from the rate of sickness benefit otherwise payable.

There is a waiting period of seven days in respect of which unemployment or sickness benefit is not payable. A special benefit may be granted to a person not qualified for unemployment or sickness benefit who is not in receipt of an age, invalid or widow's pension or a service pension, if by reason of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances, or for any other reason, he is unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants. Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries are eligible to participate in the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service under the same conditions as invalid pensioners. Payment of an unemployment or sickness benefit may be refused if the claimant or beneficiary, on being required, fails to undergo a medical examination or to receive treatment or undertake training or to do any suitable work.

2. **Unemployment Benefits.**—(i) *Number on Benefit.*—The following table shows the number of persons on benefit at the end of each month from July, 1955 to December, 1956:—

NUMBER OF PERSONS ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT
AT END OF EACH MONTH.(a)

Month.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia.		
									Males.	Fe-males.	Pers- ons.
1955—July ..	1,068	335	615	55	268	67	..	2	1,381	1,029	2,410
August ..	899	367	539	50	248	83	1	2	1,324	864	2,188
September ..	706	327	425	37	256	80	..	1	1,136	696	1,832
October ..	658	294	427	46	215	85	..	2	1,067	660	1,727
November ..	644	277	431	44	216	64	..	1	1,046	631	1,677
December ..	965	356	1,442	56	377	48	..	1	2,546	699	3,245
1956—January ..	1,321	359	2,561	46	414	40	..	1	3,958	784	4,742
February ..	1,932	341	3,371	55	374	50	..	5	5,217	911	6,128
March ..	2,233	350	3,268	62	536	31	2	12	5,448	1,046	6,494
April ..	1,771	566	2,223	86	683	30	2	18	4,230	1,149	5,379
May ..	1,837	760	1,562	140	989	36	1	11	4,037	1,299	5,336
June ..	2,313	1,412	1,270	319	1,606	71	..	12	5,395	1,608	7,003
July ..	3,051	2,515	909	493	2,082	91	1	22	7,239	1,925	9,164
August ..	3,103	3,129	809	706	2,304	110	..	16	8,274	1,903	10,177
September ..	3,208	2,949	792	674	1,871	108	..	12	7,828	1,786	9,614
October ..	3,126	3,067	829	640	1,788	88	..	7	7,665	1,880	9,545
November ..	3,308	3,085	821	770	1,666	92	1	16	7,805	1,954	9,759
December ..	4,329	3,593	2,118	978	2,126	97	..	36	11,141	2,136	13,277

(a) Last Saturday of month.

(ii) *Amounts Paid.*—The amounts paid in unemployment benefits for the months July, 1955 to December, 1956 are shown in the following table:—

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PAYMENTS DURING EACH MONTH.

(£.)

Month.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aus- tralia.
1955—July ..	15,668	2,985	13,805	740	3,746	285	..	36	37,265
August ..	11,107	4,605	8,232	833	3,972	1,299	5	20	30,073
September ..	11,976	5,800	6,438	552	3,416	1,352	5	33	29,572
October ..	8,483	4,563	5,764	445	3,333	964	..	11	23,563
November ..	7,572	3,666	5,647	708	3,690	1,167	..	11	22,461
December ..	8,599	4,197	5,420	454	3,865	744	11	8	23,298
1956—January ..	14,203	5,669	25,346	933	5,548	1,004	..	11	52,714
February ..	16,964	5,402	49,482	889	7,330	396	..	6	80,469
March ..	27,033	4,029	51,359	771	6,370	1,014	10	204	90,790
April ..	33,704	5,913	57,861	940	9,159	401	17	326	108,321
May ..	29,534	7,585	36,759	1,104	10,725	614	12	240	86,573
June ..	30,471	15,250	21,757	2,591	15,734	724	12	181	86,720
July ..	30,136	27,319	9,377	4,338	29,226	957	4	125	101,482
August ..	51,754	36,997	10,206	9,048	31,629	2,029	10	298	141,971
September ..	41,913	40,304	10,134	9,536	34,017	1,430	4	201	137,539
October ..	48,124	42,176	15,204	11,993	26,026	2,081	..	247	145,851
November ..	44,225	40,521	11,333	6,084	24,488	1,551	..	141	128,343
December ..	43,297	32,559	15,724	10,201	15,454	1,939	2	149	119,325

§ 5. Industrial Disputes.

1. **General.**—The collection of information relating to industrial disputes involving stoppage of work in Australia was initiated by this Bureau at the beginning of the year 1913. An examination of official reports, newspapers, and other publications showed that there was insufficient material for the compilation of complete information for years prior to 1913. Particulars for the first complete year were published in Labour Report No. 5 and for following years in subsequent issues.

2. **Industrial Groups.**—(i) *States and Territories, 1955.*—The following table sets out, for each State and Territory separately and classified by industrial groups, the number and extent of industrial disputes (involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more) which occurred during 1955.

The number of industrial disputes recorded during 1955 was 1,532 as compared with 1,490 during the previous year. In New South Wales 1,072 disputes occurred in 1955, 721 of which involved workers engaged in the coal-mining industry. Working days lost during 1955 amounted to 1,010,884 for all disputes in Australia, and the estimated loss of wages to £3,310,321.

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK)(a):
INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1955.**

Class.	Industrial Group.	Num- ber.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Esti- mated Loss in Wages. (£)
			Directly.	In- directly. (b)	Total.		
New South Wales.							
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	94	18,894	8,107	27,001	177,238	534,633
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	16	4,151	2,087	6,238	25,439	73,897
V.	Books, Printing, etc.	5	3,950	346	4,296	24,752	93,610
VI.	Other Manufacturing	57	15,039	2,826	17,865	84,463	283,116
VII.	Building	46	19,252	134	19,386	57,873	205,347
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	721	131,377	..	131,377	213,560	746,159
	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	3	87	45	132	905	3,625
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	28	4,890	40	4,930	4,084	11,196
X.	Air and other Land Transport . .	18	8,495	48	8,543	17,467	56,374
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	66	48,777	..	48,777	44,967	151,844
	(ii) Shipping, etc.	3	85	..	85	275	837
XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, etc.	1	1,500	..	1,500	3,000	10,000
XIV.	Miscellaneous	14	3,856	45	3,901	19,302	60,297
Total (c)		1,072	260,353	13,678	274,031	673,325	2,230,935
Victoria.							
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	11	2,260	131	2,391	32,409	94,786
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	6	2,703	714	3,417	36,900	108,306
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, etc.	3	185	180	365	664	1,775
VI.	Other Manufacturing	9	4,668	184	4,852	31,233	108,338
VII.	Building	13	767	1,078	1,845	7,323	16,265
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	1	1,740	..	1,740	1,740	7,400
X.	Air and other Land Transport . .	1	37	..	37	111	..
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	21	20,833	..	20,833	26,391	93,367
	(ii) Shipping, etc.	1	62	..	62	1,736	5,119
Total (c)		66	33,255	2,287	35,542	138,507	435,356
Queensland.							
I.	Wood, Furniture, etc.	1	36	..	36	36	110
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	6	1,757	63	1,820	10,361	32,204
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	30	9,999	2,776	12,775	19,088	58,102
V.	Books, Printing, etc.	1	170	..	170	425	1,223
VI.	Other Manufacturing	9	1,181	..	1,181	3,837	10,070
VII.	Building	8	379	..	379	1,720	5,706
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	53	3,187	20	3,207	9,554	35,703
	IX. Railway and Tramway Services	6	20,220	171	20,391	4,120	12,435
X.	Air and other Land Transport . .	2	221	592	813	3,029	9,000
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	154	44,821	..	44,821	44,878	157,152
XIV.	Miscellaneous	4	1,055	4	1,059	2,270	6,341
Total		274	83,026	3,626	86,652	99,318	328,046

For footnotes see following page.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK)(a):
INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1955—continued.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Num- ber.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Esti- mated Loss in Wages. (£)
			Directly.	In- directly. (b)	Total.		
South Australia.							
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	11	524	123	647	4,441	12,400
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	4	2,460	..	2,460	31,206	89,320
VI.	Other Manufacturing	7	1,040	6	1,046	9,148	27,443
VII.	Building	2	568	..	568	1,548	4,058
VIII.	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	1	145	..	145	145	700
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	2	1,480	..	1,480	707	1,083
X.	Air and other Land Transport . .	1	50	..	50	150	..
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	14	17,442	..	17,442	18,756	65,678
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	260	..	260	780	2,500
	Total	43	23,969	129	24,098	66,881	203,182
Western Australia.							
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	3	153	74	227	337	901
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	3	782	177	959	2,222	7,460
XI.	{ (i) Stevedoring	7	8,227	..	8,227	5,987	20,956
	{ (ii) Shipping, etc.	3	342	94	436	1,036	3,387
	Total	16	9,504	345	9,849	9,582	32,704
Tasmania.							
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	2	193	240	433	498	1,496
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	1	55	..	55	550	2,000
VI.	Other Manufacturing	1	20	..	20	50	150
VII.	Building	1	47	..	47	117	400
VIII.	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	1	537	..	537	6,981	24,280
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	1	13	..	13	26	77
X.	Air and other Land Transport . .	1	720	..	720	1,480	5,140
XI.	{ (i) Stevedoring	39	11,569	..	11,569	10,635	37,209
	{ (ii) Shipping, etc.	1	50	..	50	50	175
	Total	48	13,204	240	13,444	20,387	70,927
Northern Territory.							
VII.	Building	1	56	..	56	718	2,200
VIII.	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	3	289	2	291	1,075	3,056
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	7	576	..	576	907	3,175
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	92	..	92	40	120
	Total	12	1,013	2	1,015	2,740	8,551
Australian Capital Territory.							
VII.	Building	1	16	..	16	144	620
	Total	1	16	..	16	144	620
Australia.							
I.	Wood, Furniture, etc.	1	36	..	36	36	110
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	124	23,628	8,664	32,292	224,947	675,519
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	60	19,521	5,651	25,172	113,520	332,526
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, etc. . . .	3	185	180	365	664	1,775
V.	Books, Printing, etc.	6	4,120	346	4,466	25,177	94,833
VI.	Other Manufacturing	83	21,948	3,016	24,964	128,731	429,117
VII.	Building	72	21,085	1,212	22,297	69,443	234,596
VIII.	{ (i) Coal-mining	777	135,346	197	135,543	225,336	789,322
	{ (ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	8	1,058	47	1,105	9,106	31,661
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	38	28,343	211	28,554	10,677	32,191
X.	Air and other Land Transport . .	23	9,523	640	10,163	22,237	70,514
XI.	{ (i) Stevedoring	308	152,245	..	152,245	152,521	529,381
	{ (ii) Shipping, etc.	8	539	94	633	3,097	9,518
XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, etc.	1	1,500	..	1,500	3,000	10,000
XIV.	Miscellaneous	20	5,263	49	5,312	22,392	69,258
	Total(c)	1,532	424,340	20,307	444,647	1,010,884	3,310,321

(a) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more.

(b) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

(c) Two disputes in New South Wales and one in Victoria involving respectively 485 and 62 workers commenced in 1954 and were still in progress at the beginning of 1955. Particulars of these disputes have been included in statistics of disputes for both 1954 and 1955.

(ii) *States and Territories, 1956.*—The following table sets out, for each State and Territory separately and classified by industrial groups, the number and extent of industrial disputes (involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more) which occurred during 1956.

The number of industrial disputes recorded during 1956 was 1,306 as compared with 1,532 during the previous year. In New South Wales 878 disputes occurred in 1956, 593 of which involved workers engaged in the coal-mining industry. Working days lost during 1956 amounted to 1,121,383 for all disputes in Australia, and the estimated loss of wages to £3,967,061. Corresponding figures for 1955 were 1,010,884 and £3,310,321.

A graph showing, for a number of years, the working days lost as a result of industrial disputes in the main industrial groups will be found on p. 67.

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK)(a):
INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1956.**

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages. (£)
			Directly.	Indirectly. (b)	Total.		
New South Wales.							
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	51	6,105	2,820	8,925	157,511	615,126
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	14	1,577	70	1,647	5,473	14,560
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, etc.	2	917	..	917	3,116	8,766
V.	Books, Printing, etc.	1	17	..	17	34	142
VI.	Other Manufacturing	36	6,192	1,500	7,692	44,994	153,730
VII.	Building	55	10,259	447	10,706	44,504	169,268
VIII.	{ (i) Coal-mining	593	120,149	584	120,733	178,100	608,263
	{ (ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	3	6,680	..	6,680	7,490	41,390
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	24	4,765	24	4,789	2,148	6,672
X.	Air and other Land Transport . .	13	2,583	1,186	3,769	5,261	22,234
XI.	{ (i) Stevedoring	62	49,209	..	49,209	140,361	489,680
	{ (ii) Shipping, etc.	4	347	79	426	1,119	3,797
XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . . .	2	534	86	620	2,952	7,827
XIV.	Miscellaneous	18	10,124	..	10,124	18,216	58,309
Total(c)		878	219,458	6,796	226,254	611,279	2,199,764
Victoria.							
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	3	348	110	458	4,026	13,230
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	6	988	185	1,173	2,131	7,169
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, etc.	1	800	..	800	800	2,500
VI.	Other Manufacturing	5	539	1,150	1,689	7,971	29,104
VII.	Building	17	736	14	750	11,509	39,822
VIII.	{ (i) Coal-mining	1	435	50	485	2,037	7,674
	{ (ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	2	1,664	726	2,390	1,282	5,102
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	2	246	48	294	611	954
X.	Air and other Land Transport . .	14	28,278	..	28,278	75,041	262,655
XI.	{ (i) Stevedoring	1	20	..	20	400	1,600
	{ (ii) Shipping, etc.	1	1,500	..	1,500	5,650	15,500
XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . . .	1	40	..	40	207	829
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	40	..	40	207	829
Total(c)		54	35,594	2,283	37,877	111,665	386,139
Queensland.							
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	2	1,260	..	1,260	15,000	50,500
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	25	15,382	2,673	18,055	36,070	113,250
V.	Books, Printing, etc.	1	1,200	..	1,200	1,200	3,950
VI.	Other Manufacturing	8	803	..	803	1,972	5,774
VII.	Building	7	9,496	..	9,496	10,957	45,848
VIII.	{ (i) Coal-mining	69	3,736	151	3,887	13,995	53,173
	{ (ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	1	1,000	..	1,000	1,000	6,000
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	12	27,932	149	28,081	28,552	85,152
X.	Air and other Land Transport . .	1	47	..	47	123	380
XI.	{ (i) Stevedoring	135	50,462	..	50,462	120,979	423,451
	{ (ii) Shipping, etc.	1	20	..	20	102	250
XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . . .	2	676	..	676	7,740	24,237
XIV.	Miscellaneous	5	395	..	395	1,122	3,627
Total		269	112,409	2,973	115,382	238,812	815,592

For footnotes see following page.

**INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK)(a):
INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, 1956—continued.**

Class.	Industrial Group.	Num- ber.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Esti- mated Loss in Wages. (£.)
			Directly.	In- directly. (b).	Total.		
<i>South Australia.</i>							
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	3	340	..	340	3,600	13,417
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	1	28	..	28	168	375
VI.	Other Manufacturing	1	6	..	6	12	28
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	1	1,425	..	1,425	1,700	3,850
X.	Air and other Land Transport ..	1	132	..	132	154	350
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	13	16,558	..	16,558	68,975	241,431
XIV.	Miscellaneous	1	38	..	38	57	185
	<i>Total</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>18,527</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>18,527</i>	<i>74,666</i>	<i>259,636</i>
<i>Western Australia.</i>							
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	1	44	..	44	55	201
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	1	36	121	157	300	819
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	2	306	1,220	1,526	4,222	14,600
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	10	9,394	..	9,394	27,367	95,884
	<i>Total</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>9,780</i>	<i>1,341</i>	<i>11,121</i>	<i>31,944</i>	<i>111,504</i>
<i>Tasmania.</i>							
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	1	184	..	184	190	788
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	1	64	..	64	94	330
VII.	Building	1	190	..	190	190	618
VIII.	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	1	209	..	209	4,143	22,450
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	1	536	..	536	154	541
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	40	14,786	..	14,786	42,136	147,479
	<i>Total</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>15,969</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>15,969</i>	<i>46,907</i>	<i>172,206</i>
<i>Northern Territory.</i>							
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	24	2,770	..	2,770	5,197	18,194
	<i>Total</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>2,770</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>2,770</i>	<i>5,197</i>	<i>18,194</i>
<i>Australian Capital Territory.</i>							
VII.	Building	1	83	..	83	913	4,026
	<i>Total</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>913</i>	<i>4,026</i>
<i>Australia.</i>							
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	61	8,281	2,930	11,211	180,382	693,262
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	48	18,075	3,049	21,124	44,236	136,503
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, etc.	3	1,717	..	1,717	3,916	11,266
V.	Books, Printing, etc.	2	1,217	..	1,217	1,234	4,092
VI.	Other Manufacturing	50	7,540	2,650	10,190	54,949	188,636
VII.	Building	81	20,764	461	21,225	68,073	259,582
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining	665	124,626	2,005	126,631	198,354	683,710
	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	5	7,889	..	7,889	12,633	69,840
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	40	36,322	899	37,221	33,836	101,317
X.	Air and other Land Transport ..	17	3,008	1,234	4,242	6,149	23,918
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	298	171,457	..	171,457	480,056	1,678,774
	(ii) Shipping, etc.	6	387	79	466	1,621	5,647
XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	5	2,710	86	2,796	16,342	47,564
XIV.	Miscellaneous	25	10,597	..	10,597	19,602	62,950
	<i>Total(c)</i>	<i>1,306</i>	<i>414,590</i>	<i>13,393</i>	<i>427,983</i>	<i>1,121,383</i>	<i>3,967,061</i>

(a) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (b) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute. (c) Two disputes in New South Wales and one in Victoria involving respectively 1,160 and 14 workers commenced in 1955 and were still in progress at the beginning of 1956. Particulars of these disputes have been included in statistics of disputes for both 1955 and 1956.

(iii) *Australia*.—The following table shows in industrial groups the number of industrial disputes, the number of workers involved, and the losses in working days and wages for each of the years 1939 and 1952 to 1956.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK) (a): AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Manu- facturing. (Groups I. to VI.)	Building. (Group VII.)	Mining. (Group VIII.)		Transport. (Groups IX. to XI.)	Miscel- laneous. (Groups XII. to XIV.)	All Groups.	
			(i) Coal- mining.	(ii) Other Mining.				
NUMBER.								
1939	..	20	3	362	4	6	21	416
1952	..	164	27	1,219	7	202	8	1,627
1953	..	143	41	944	6	311	14	1,459
1954	..	192	47	942	4	290	15	1,490
1955	..	277	72	777	8	377	21	1,532
1956	..	164	81	665	5	361	30	1,306

WORKERS INVOLVED.							
1939 ..	8,818	57	137,792	900	2,017	3,246	152,830
1952 ..	157,870	1,862	193,066	4,769	145,033	3,134	505,734
1953 ..	155,249	8,417	147,791	3,020	179,786	1,783	496,046
1954 ..	57,010	6,925	155,630	494	145,521	4,494	370,074
1955 ..	87,295	22,297	135,543	1,105	191,595	6,812	444,647
1956 ..	45,459	21,225	126,631	7,889	213,386	13,393	427,983

WORKING DAYS LOST.							
1939 ..	108,709	563	291,067	3,805	35,016	19,994	459,154
1952 ..	572,169	20,079	286,749	19,743	261,109	3,655	1,163,504
1953 ..	351,722	67,506	378,715	18,956	222,564	11,367	1,050,830
1954 ..	244,770	31,751	255,726	7,720	352,311	9,361	901,639
1955 ..	493,075	69,443	225,336	9,106	188,532	25,392	1,010,884
1956 ..	284,717	68,073	198,354	12,633	521,662	35,944	1,121,383

ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES. (£.)							
1939 ..	83,540	424	335,033	4,728	22,114	9,877	455,716
1952 ..	1,593,902	56,034	932,480	94,743	752,124	10,567	3,439,850
1953 ..	1,023,366	242,500	1,247,895	80,486	703,537	39,653	3,337,437
1954 ..	767,051	115,972	862,384	41,265	1,207,932	26,607	3,021,211
1955 ..	1,533,880	234,596	789,322	31,661	641,604	79,258	3,310,321
1956 ..	1,033,759	259,582	683,710	69,840	1,809,656	110,514	3,967,061

(a) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more.

Satisfactory comparisons of the frequency of industrial disputes between industrial groups can be best made after omitting those recorded for coal-mining (Group VIII. (i)).

The latter represented 51 per cent. of the total number of disputes in each of the years 1955 and 1956 and accounted for 24 per cent. of the total working days lost in 1955 and 17 per cent. in 1956. The majority of the coal-mining disputes occurred in New South Wales, where the number of workers engaged in the industry is very much larger than in any other State.

3. **States and Territories.**—The number of industrial disputes in each State and Territory during the years 1939 and 1953 to 1956, together with the workers involved, the working days lost, and the estimated loss in wages, are given in the following table:—

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK)(a):
STATES AND TERRITORIES.

State or Territory.	Year.	Number.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages. (£)
			Directly.	In-directly. (b)	Total.		
New South Wales	1939	386	139,301	9,230	148,531	410,183	419,330
	1953	1,080	302,007	6,375	308,382	759,391	2,403,242
	1954	1,063	217,081	5,205	222,286	501,573	1,654,814
	1955	1,072	260,353	13,678	274,031	673,325	2,230,935
	1956	878	219,458	6,796	226,254	611,279	2,199,764
Victoria	1939	10	1,989	180	2,169	27,313	19,946
	1953	53	65,962	2,164	68,126	57,160	176,330
	1954	76	42,476	2,337	44,813	135,611	460,213
	1955	66	33,255	2,287	35,542	138,507	435,356
	1956	54	35,594	2,283	37,877	111,665	386,139
Queensland	1939	5	373	2	375	1,870	1,753
	1953	265	87,986	3,511	91,497	153,448	465,830
	1954	278	77,006	6,675	83,681	183,855	611,331
	1955	274	83,026	3,626	86,652	99,318	328,046
	1956	269	112,409	2,973	115,382	238,812	815,592
South Australia	1939	2	170	5	175	1,880	1,416
	1953	24	18,502	190	18,692	55,476	200,610
	1954	23	7,291	45	7,336	31,207	108,100
	1955	43	23,969	129	24,098	66,881	203,182
	1956	21	18,527	..	18,527	74,666	259,636
Western Australia	1939	7	1,108	145	1,253	14,100	9,578
	1953	11	3,665	..	3,665	4,977	15,663
	1954	15	5,398	96	5,494	21,651	75,387
	1955	16	9,504	345	9,849	9,582	32,704
	1956	14	9,780	1,341	11,121	31,944	111,504
Tasmania	1939	4	53	..	53	166	93
	1953	18	5,069	6	5,075	18,441	68,259
	1954	31	5,951	136	6,087	25,915	105,042
	1955	48	13,204	240	13,444	20,387	70,927
	1956	45	15,969	..	15,969	46,907	172,206
Northern Territory	1939	2	234	40	274	3,642	3,600
	1953	5	535	..	535	1,807	7,161
	1954	2	239	..	239	1,452	5,082
	1955	12	1,013	2	1,015	2,740	8,551
	1956	24	2,770	..	2,770	5,197	18,194
Australian Capital Territory	1939	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1953	3	74	..	74	130	342
	1954	2	138	..	138	375	1,242
	1955	1	16	..	16	144	620
	1956	1	83	..	83	913	4,026
Australia	1939	416	143,228	9,602	152,830	459,154	455,716
	1953	1,459	483,800	12,246	496,046	1,050,830	3,337,437
	1954	1,490	355,580	14,494	370,074	901,639	3,021,211
	1955	1,532	424,340	20,307	444,647	1,010,884	3,310,321
	1956	1,306	414,590	13,393	427,983	1,121,383	3,967,061

(a) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (b) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

4. **Duration.**—(i)—*General.*—The duration of each industrial dispute involving a loss of work, i.e., the time between the cessation and resumption of work, has been calculated in working days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, except where the establishment involved carries on a continuous process (e.g., metal smelting and cement manufacture). The following classification has been adopted:—(a) One day and less; (b) two days and more than one day; (c) three days and more than two days; (d) over three days and less than one week; (e) one week and less than two weeks; (f) two weeks and less than four weeks; (g) four weeks and less than eight weeks; and (h) eight weeks and over.

(ii) *Australia, 1939 and 1953 to 1956.* Particulars of industrial disputes, according to limits of duration, for Australia for the years 1939 and 1953 to 1956 are given in the following table:—

DURATION OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK)(a): AUSTRALIA.

Duration.	Year.	Number.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages. (£)
			Directly.	Indirectly. (b)	Total.		
1 day and less	1939	230	96,184	1,191	97,375	97,375	106,970
	1953	956	340,404	4,255	344,659	259,852	812,185
	1954	890	192,933	3,688	196,621	170,415	570,562
	1955	896	263,510	6,958	270,468	217,701	740,358
	1956	778	293,244	2,823	296,067	239,142	829,035
2 days and more than 1 day .. .	1939	60	16,398	872	17,270	34,540	35,648
	1953	232	62,785	1,245	64,030	99,277	318,006
	1954	267	81,644	4,148	85,792	135,493	442,133
	1955	262	85,684	1,725	87,409	139,321	490,540
	1956	208	42,610	832	43,442	73,004	246,346
3 days and more than 2 days .. .	1939	38	10,103	1,374	11,477	34,431	36,427
	1953	66	9,274	1,244	10,518	26,874	86,691
	1954	102	23,827	705	24,532	64,744	210,434
	1955	128	27,113	1,748	28,861	78,601	252,266
	1956	72	8,749	3,768	12,517	30,197	99,208
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	1939	34	7,540	404	7,944	36,387	37,056
	1953	53	10,242	940	11,182	41,007	128,450
	1954	65	11,043	1,153	12,196	44,528	152,036
	1955	72	10,479	5,152	15,631	59,399	199,667
	1956	64	12,095	465	12,560	50,269	175,032
1 week and less than 2 weeks .. .	1939	34	6,864	2,169	9,033	75,323	67,736
	1953	84	17,505	3,572	21,077	115,997	351,680
	1954	86	32,471	1,920	34,391	277,144	946,314
	1955	105	18,560	1,862	20,422	124,431	403,817
	1956	108	20,377	3,008	23,385	134,678	490,327
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks .. .	1939	10	5,002	3,224	8,226	116,182	116,882
	1953	44	11,087	92	11,179	128,668	418,510
	1954	45	8,849	1,840	10,689	74,245	249,061
	1955	42	11,812	1,937	13,749	139,652	475,476
	1956	39	34,513	837	35,350	394,049	1,371,948
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks .. .	1939	6	618	307	925	25,463	15,908
	1953	11	7,139	105	7,244	74,380	278,595
	1954	23	1,267	446	1,713	40,817	153,059
	1955	17	2,713	829	3,542	93,852	282,367
	1956	30	2,231	326	2,557	60,317	212,269
8 weeks and over	1939	4	519	61	580	39,453	39,089
	1953	13	25,364	793	26,157	304,775	943,320
	1954	12	3,546	594	4,140	94,253	297,612
	1955	10	4,469	96	4,565	157,927	465,830
	1956	7	771	1,334	2,105	139,727	542,896
Total	1939	416	143,228	9,602	152,830	459,154	455,716
	1953	1,459	483,800	12,246	496,046	1,050,830	3,337,437
	1954	1,490	355,580	14,494	370,074	901,639	3,021,211
	1955	1,532	424,340	20,307	444,647	1,010,884	3,310,321
	1956	1,306	414,590	13,393	427,983	1,121,383	3,967,061

(a) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more.

(b) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

(iii) *Australia, Industry Groups.*—(a) 1955.—The following table shows, for the year 1955, industrial disputes in “coal-mining”, “stevedoring” and “other industries” classified according to duration.

**DURATION OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK)(a):
AUSTRALIA, 1955.**

Duration.	Num-ber.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages. (£)
		Directly.	In-directly. (b)	Total.		
COAL-MINING.						
1 day and less	518	85,625	177	85,802	85,470	301,425
2 days and more than 1 day ..	138	29,267	..	29,267	46,266	164,492
3 days and more than 2 days ..	65	10,031	20	10,051	25,765	90,310
Over 3 days and less than 1 week ..	26	3,093	..	3,093	12,146	42,788
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	24	4,966	..	4,966	33,279	119,764
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	5	1,231	..	1,231	11,570	37,803
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8 weeks and over	1	1,133	..	1,133	10,840	32,740
Total	777	135,346	197	135,543	225,336	789,322

STEVEDORING.						
1 day and less	217	111,973	..	111,973	81,595	286,860
2 days and more than 1 day ..	66	35,148	..	35,148	50,687	177,484
3 days and more than 2 days ..	15	2,802	..	2,802	7,673	26,259
Over 3 days and less than 1 week ..	5	960	..	960	2,988	10,460
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	5	1,362	..	1,362	9,578	28,318
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8 weeks and over .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	308	152,245	..	152,245	152,521	529,381

OTHER INDUSTRIES.						
1 day and less	161	65,912	6,781	72,693	50,636	152,073
2 days and more than 1 day ..	58	21,269	1,725	22,994	42,368	148,564
3 days and more than 2 days ..	48	14,280	1,728	16,008	45,163	135,697
Over 3 days and less than 1 week ..	41	6,426	5,152	11,578	44,265	146,419
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	76	12,232	1,862	14,094	81,574	255,735
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	37	10,581	1,937	12,518	128,082	437,673
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	17	2,713	829	3,542	93,852	282,367
8 weeks and over	9	3,336	96	3,432	147,087	433,090
Total	447	136,749	20,110	156,859	633,027	1,991,618

ALL INDUSTRIES.						
1 day and less	896	263,510	6,958	270,468	217,701	740,358
2 days and more than 1 day ..	262	85,684	1,725	87,409	139,321	490,540
3 days and more than 2 days ..	128	27,113	1,748	28,861	78,601	252,266
Over 3 days and less than 1 week ..	72	10,479	5,152	15,631	59,399	199,667
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	105	18,560	1,862	20,422	124,431	403,817
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	42	11,812	1,937	13,749	139,652	475,476
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	17	2,713	829	3,542	93,852	282,367
8 weeks and over	10	4,469	96	4,565	157,927	465,830
Total	1,532	424,340	20,307	444,647	1,010,884	3,310,321

(a) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (b) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

(b) 1956.—The following table shows, for the year 1956, industrial disputes in "coal-mining", "stevedoring" and "other industries" classified according to duration.

**DURATION OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK)(a):
AUSTRALIA, 1956.**

Duration.	Num-ber.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages. (£)
		Directly.	In-directly. (b)	Total.		
COAL-MINING.						
1 day and less	463	95,681	123	95,804	95,770	328,476
2 days and more than 1 day ..	100	14,354	15	14,369	26,622	90,282
3 days and more than 2 days ..	34	3,844	1,223	5,067	12,670	43,103
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	16	2,224	135	2,359	8,765	29,989
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	36	3,996	180	4,176	23,929	87,941
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	12	4,303	326	4,629	24,902	85,576
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	4	224	3	227	5,696	18,343
8 weeks and over .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	665	124,626	2,005	126,631	198,354	683,710
STEVEDORING.						
1 day and less	214	117,352	..	117,352	71,932	251,857
2 days and more than 1 day ..	45	16,930	..	16,930	25,673	89,863
3 days and more than 2 days ..	11	1,754	..	1,754	4,550	15,928
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	11	1,478	..	1,478	5,531	19,363
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	8	6,028	..	6,028	41,882	145,039
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	9	27,915	..	27,915	330,488	1,156,724
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8 weeks and over .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	298	171,457	..	171,457	480,056	1,678,774
OTHER INDUSTRIES.						
1 day and less	101	80,211	2,700	82,911	71,440	248,702
2 days and more than 1 day ..	63	11,326	817	12,143	20,709	66,201
3 days and more than 2 days ..	27	3,151	2,545	5,696	12,977	40,177
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	37	8,393	330	8,723	35,973	125,680
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	64	10,353	2,828	13,181	68,867	257,347
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	18	2,295	511	2,806	38,659	129,648
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	26	2,007	323	2,330	54,621	193,926
8 weeks and over	7	771	1,334	2,105	139,727	542,896
Total	343	118,507	11,388	129,895	442,973	1,604,577
ALL INDUSTRIES.						
1 day and less	778	293,244	2,823	296,067	239,142	829,035
2 days and more than 1 day ..	208	42,610	832	43,442	73,004	246,346
3 days and more than 2 days ..	72	8,749	3,768	12,517	30,197	99,208
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	64	12,095	465	12,560	50,269	175,032
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	108	20,377	3,008	23,385	134,678	490,327
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	39	34,513	837	35,350	394,049	1,371,948
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	30	2,231	326	2,557	60,317	212,269
8 weeks and over	7	771	1,334	2,105	139,727	542,896
Total	1,306	414,590	13,393	427,983	1,121,383	3,967,061

(a) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (b) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes.

5. Causes.—(i) *General*.—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40, 1951, the causes of industrial disputes were classified in some detail for all industries combined. As from 1950, however, stoppages have been analysed in three separate groups, "Coal-mining", "Stevedoring" and "Other Industries". This dissection has been made because the pattern of the disputes in coal-mining and stevedoring differs significantly from that in other industries.

Under the new classification, causes are grouped under four main headings:—(1) Wages, Hours and Leave; (2) Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy; (3) Trade Unionism; (4) Other Causes. The first group is restricted to disputes involving general principles relating to wages, hours and leave, minor questions regarding the claims to pay or leave by individual workers being included under managerial policy. The second group comprises disputes regarding physical working conditions and general questions of managerial policy, namely, those arising from disciplinary action, the promotion of workers, the employment of particular individuals, personal disagreements between workers and supervisory staff and disputes arising from the computation of wages, leave, etc., in individual cases. The third group, Trade Unionism, includes stoppages over employment of non-unionists, inter-union and intra-union disputes, disputes over recognition of union activities, and sympathy stoppages in support of workers in another industry. The last group comprises disputes by way of protest against situations not arising from the usual relationship of employer and worker, e.g., political matters, and cases (mainly occurring in the coal-mining industry) where the cause of the stoppage is not officially made known to the management.

As the items included under these headings differ somewhat from those included under the similar headings used for classifying causes of disputes in years prior to 1950, the figures for the years 1950 to 1956 are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years.

(ii) *Australia, 1939 and 1951 to 1956.*—The following table gives particulars of industrial disputes according to causes for the years 1939 and 1951 to 1956.

**CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK) (a):
AUSTRALIA.(b)**

Cause of Dispute.	1939.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.							
Wages, Hours and Leave ..	96	186	161	105	100	201	107
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	197	803	967	896	975	887	792
Trade Unionism ..	50	159	204	187	160	172	106
Other ..	73	196	295	271	255	272	301
Total ..	416	1,344	1,627	1,459	1,490	1,532	1,306
WORKERS INVOLVED.							
Wages, Hours and Leave ..	29,290	117,409	201,274	89,443	42,923	139,522	130,526
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	56,783	151,655	183,123	218,809	214,060	184,449	149,208
Trade Unionism ..	18,651	27,684	51,819	26,176	45,437	37,998	19,816
Other ..	48,106	111,844	69,518	161,618	67,654	82,678	128,433
Total ..	152,830	408,592	505,734	496,046	370,074	444,647	427,983
WORKING DAYS LOST.							
Wages, Hours and Leave ..	128,525	338,026	545,017	208,776	136,738	467,591	667,964
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	189,510	359,383	444,286	657,835	413,118	398,147	295,633
Trade Unionism ..	54,749	67,280	93,133	58,038	278,332	62,103	40,844
Other ..	86,370	108,285	81,068	126,181	73,451	83,043	116,942
Total ..	459,154	872,974	1,163,504	1,050,830	901,639	1,010,884	1,121,383

(a) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (b) Owing to the use of a new classification, figures for 1951 to 1956 are not strictly comparable with those for 1939.

(iii) *Australia, Industry Groups.*—(a) 1955.—The following table shows particulars of industrial disputes for 1955 classified according to cause in three industry groups.

CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK) (a):
AUSTRALIA, 1955.

Cause of Dispute.	Coal-mining.	Stevedoring.	Other Industries.	All Industries.
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NUMBER OF DISPUTES.

Wages, Hours and Leave	6	31	164	201
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy	445	210	232	887
Trade Unionism	119	19	34	172
Other	207	48	17	272
Total	777	308	447	1,532

WORKERS INVOLVED.

Wages, Hours and Leave	7,443	49,210	82,869	139,522
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy	66,934	66,498	51,017	184,449
Trade Unionism	20,488	4,910	12,600	37,998
Other	40,678	31,627	10,373	82,678
Total	135,543	152,245	156,859	444,647

WORKING DAYS LOST.

Wages, Hours and Leave	7,680	46,336	413,575	467,591
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy	122,111	81,714	194,322	398,147
Trade Unionism	44,405	3,515	14,183	62,103
Other	51,140	20,956	10,947	83,043
Total	225,336	152,521	633,027	1,010,884

(a) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more.

(b) 1956.—The following table shows particulars of industrial disputes for 1956 classified according to cause in three industry groups.

**CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK) (a):
AUSTRALIA, 1956.**

Cause of Dispute.	Coal-mining.	Stevedoring.	Other Industries.	All Industries.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.				
Wages, Hours and Leave	5	21	81	107
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy	375	205	212	792
Trade Unionism	66	15	25	106
Other	219	57	25	301
Total	665	298	343	1,306
WORKERS INVOLVED.				
Wages, Hours and Leave	1,467	61,288	67,771	130,526
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy	57,288	52,700	39,220	149,208
Trade Unionism	11,795	3,184	4,837	19,816
Other	56,081	54,285	18,067	128,433
Total	126,631	171,457	129,895	427,983
WORKING DAYS LOST.				
Wages, Hours and Leave	1,467	392,795	273,702	667,964
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy	115,804	50,259	129,570	295,633
Trade Unionism	18,053	5,672	17,119	40,844
Other	63,030	31,330	22,582	116,942
Total	198,354	480,056	442,973	1,121,383

(a) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more.

6. **Results.**—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40, tables were included showing analyses of the results of industrial disputes over a period of years. This tabulation was discontinued because of the difficulty of obtaining the details necessary to make a classification, in precise terms, of the results of industrial disputes.

7. **Methods of Settlement.**—(i) *General.*—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 41, 1952, the methods of settlement of industrial disputes were classified in some detail for all industries combined. Commencing with the year 1951, stoppages in “Coal-mining”, “Stevedoring” and “Other Industries” have been analysed separately.

The new classification is actually a refinement of the previous classification four of the six headings having been subdivided. Thus the figures for recent years in the table on page 136 are still comparable with those for earlier years based on the previous classification.

The previous classification of methods of settlement was—

- (i) By negotiation between the parties, without the intervention or assistance of authorities constituted under State or Commonwealth industrial legislation.
- (ii) Under the provisions of State industrial legislation.
- (iii) Under the provisions of Commonwealth industrial legislation.
- (iv) By filling places of workers on strike or locked out.
- (v) By closing down establishment permanently.
- (vi) By other methods.

The revised classification is—

- (1) Negotiation.—By private negotiation between the parties involved, or their representatives, without the intervention or assistance of authorities constituted under State or Commonwealth industrial legislation. (Part of (i) above.)
- (2) Mediation.—By the arbitration or mediation of persons whose intervention or assistance is not based on State or Commonwealth industrial legislation. (Balance of (i) above.)
- (3) State Legislation—
 - (a) Under State Conciliation and Arbitration or Wages Board Legislation.—By intervention or assistance of an industrial authority or authorities created by or constituted under State conciliation and arbitration or wages board legislation, or by reference to such authorities or by compulsory or voluntary conference. (Part of (ii) above.)
 - (b) Under Other State Legislation.—By intervention, assistance or advice of State Government officials or inspectors. (Balance of (ii) above.)
- (4) Commonwealth and Joint Commonwealth-State Legislation—
 - (a) By compulsory or voluntary conference or by intervention or assistance of, or by reference to, the industrial tribunals created by or constituted under the following Acts. (Part of (iii) above)—
 - (i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act.
 - (ii) Coal Industry Acts.
 - (iii) Stevedoring Industry Act.
 - (iv) Other Acts (Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act; Maritime Industry Act; and Public Service Arbitration Act).
 - (b) By intervention, assistance or advice of Commonwealth Government officials or inspectors. (Balance of (iii) above.)
- (5) By filling places of workers on strike or locked out. (Formerly (iv) above.)
- (6) By closing down establishment permanently. (Formerly (v) above.)
- (7) By resumption without negotiation. (Part of (vi) above.)
- (8) By other methods. (Balance of (vi) above.)

As the tables refer only to industrial disputes involving stoppages of work, they do not reflect the relative importance of the work of authorities operating under State and Commonwealth legislation.

(ii) *Australia, 1939 and 1951 to 1956.* Information for Australia for the years specified is given in the following table:—

METHODS OF SETTLEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK)(a) : AUSTRALIA.(b)

Method of Settlement.	1939.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.							
By private negotiation	294	271	368	287	293	286	245
Under State industrial legislation ..	7	48	49	70	77	87	80
Under Commonwealth industrial legislation	6	175	169	136	130	151	124
By filling places of workers on strike or locked out	1	..	..	..	2	..	2
By closing down establishment permanently	2	1	1	..	..	..	..
By other methods	106	846	1,036	963	985	1,005	853
Total	416	1,341	1,623	1,456	1,487	1,529	1,304

WORKERS INVOLVED.

By private negotiation	82,684	45,691	48,289	39,369	45,053	65,305	28,155
Under State industrial legislation ..	5,354	21,786	12,385	29,957	24,169	31,148	19,780
Under Commonwealth industrial legislation	3,268	50,442	42,950	43,287	35,238	22,420	20,165
By filling places of workers on strike or locked out	20	..	..	..	199	..	116
By closing down establishment permanently	178	29	353	..	..	..	..
By other methods	61,326	290,373	400,184	383,013	262,753	324,600	359,536
Total	152,830	408,321	504,161	495,626	367,412	443,473	427,752

WORKING DAYS LOST.

By private negotiation	298,652	126,792	271,665	125,817	130,057	295,534	157,930
Under State industrial legislation ..	39,013	133,904	98,938	246,175	118,160	163,667	66,619
Under Commonwealth industrial legislation	46,450	200,909	193,994	165,564	119,767	72,311	63,535
By filling places of workers on strike or locked out	20	..	..	..	460	..	364
By closing down establishment permanently	3,892	203	6,001	..	..	..	..
By other methods	71,127	390,717	585,044	500,331	508,020	468,190	831,356
Total	459,154	852,525	1,155,642	1,037,887	876,464	999,702	1,119,804

(a) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (b) Differences between the total figures of this table and the corresponding totals of other tables in this section are due to disputes which were incomplete at the end of the calendar year.

(iii) *Australia, Industry Groups.*—(a) 1955.—In the following table particulars of industrial disputes for 1955 classified according to method of settlement are shown separately for coal-mining, stevedoring and other industries.

METHODS OF SETTLEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK)(a) : AUSTRALIA, 1955.(b)

Method of Settlement.	Coal-mining.	Stevedoring.	Other Industries.	All Industries.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.				
1. By private negotiation	126	20	134	280
2. By mediation not based on legislation	2	..	4	6
3. State legislation—				
(a) Under State Conciliation, etc., legislation .. .. .	..	..	86	86
(b) By reference to State Government officials	1	..	..	1
4. Commonwealth and Commonwealth-State legislation—				
(a) Industrial Tribunals under—				
(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act .. .. .	..	..	33	33
(ii) Coal Industry Acts	51	..	..	51
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act .. .. .	..	12	..	12
(b) By reference to Commonwealth Government officials	4	46	5	55
7. By resumption without negotiation	592	228	183	1,003
8. By other methods .. .. .	..	2	..	2
Total	776	308	445	1,529

WORKERS INVOLVED.

1. By private negotiation	15,187	6,601	40,784	62,572
2. By mediation not based on legislation	152	..	2,581	2,733
3. State legislation—				
(a) Under State Conciliation, etc., legislation .. .. .	..	..	31,048	31,048
(b) By reference to State Government officials	100	..	..	100
4. Commonwealth and Commonwealth-State legislation—				
(a) Industrial Tribunals under—				
(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act .. .. .	..	..	4,211	4,211
(ii) Coal Industry Acts	8,437	..	..	8,437
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act .. .. .	..	770	..	770
(b) By reference to Commonwealth Government officials	1,387	7,309	306	9,002
7. By resumption without negotiation	109,147	137,391	77,888	324,426
8. By other methods .. .. .	..	174	..	174
Total	134,410	152,245	156,818	443,473

WORKING DAYS LOST.

1. By private negotiation	32,805	8,925	243,286	285,016
2. By mediation not based on legislation	351	..	10,167	10,518
3. State legislation—				
(a) Under State Conciliation, etc., legislation .. .. .	..	..	163,567	163,567
(b) By reference to State Government officials	100	..	..	100
4. Commonwealth and Commonwealth-State legislation—				
(a) Industrial Tribunals under—				
(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act .. .. .	..	..	20,728	20,728
(ii) Coal Industry Acts	32,585	..	..	32,585
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act .. .. .	..	939	..	939
(b) By reference to Commonwealth Government officials	6,650	10,641	768	18,059
7. By resumption without negotiation	142,005	131,717	194,169	467,891
8. By other methods .. .. .	..	299	..	299
Total	214,496	152,521	632,685	999,702

(a) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (b) Differences between the total figures of this table and the corresponding totals of other tables in this section are due to disputes which were incomplete at the end of the calendar year.

(b) 1956.—In the following table particulars of industrial disputes for 1956 classified according to method of settlement are shown separately for coal mining, stevedoring and other industries.

METHODS OF SETTLEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (INVOLVING STOPPAGE OF WORK)(a) : AUSTRALIA, 1956.(b)

Method of Settlement.	Coal-mining.	Steve-doring.	Other Industries.	All Industries.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.				
1. By private negotiation	121	5	113	239
2. By mediation not based on legislation	5	..	1	6
3. State legislation—				
(a) Under State Conciliation, etc., legislation	2	..	72	74
(b) By reference to State Government officials	2	..	4	6
4. Commonwealth and Commonwealth-State legis- lation—				
(a) Industrial Tribunals under—				
(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act .. .. .	..	1	23	24
(ii) Coal Industry Acts	56	..	..	56
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act .. .. .	..	5	1	6
(b) By reference to Commonwealth Government officials	1	37	..	38
5. By filling places of workers on strike or locked out .. .. .	..	..	2	2
7. By resumption without negotiation	477	249	127	853
Total	664	297	343	1,304

WORKERS INVOLVED.

1. By private negotiation	10,968	616	16,005	27,589
2. By mediation not based on legislation	534	..	32	566
3. State legislation—				
(a) Under State Conciliation, etc., legislation	199	..	15,992	16,191
(b) By reference to State Government officials	1,620	..	1,969	3,589
4. Commonwealth and Commonwealth-State legis- lation—				
(a) Industrial Tribunals under—				
(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act .. .. .	..	26	2,674	2,700
(ii) Coal Industry Acts	7,808	..	..	7,808
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act .. .. .	..	943	42	985
(b) By reference to Commonwealth Government officials	12	8,660	..	8,672
5. By filling places of workers on strike or locked out .. .. .	..	..	116	116
7. By resumption without negotiation	105,394	161,077	93,065	359,536
Total	126,535	171,322	129,895	427,752

WORKING DAYS LOST.

1. By private negotiation	35,236	1,601	120,114	156,951
2. By mediation not based on legislation	949	..	30	979
3. State legislation—				
(a) Under State Conciliation, etc., legislation	1,086	..	53,024	54,110
(b) By reference to State Government officials	3,458	..	9,051	12,509
4. Commonwealth and Commonwealth-State legis- lation—				
(a) Industrial Tribunals under—				
(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act .. .. .	..	26	22,022	22,048
(ii) Coal Industry Acts	29,271	..	..	29,271
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act .. .. .	..	1,978	238	2,216
(b) By reference to Commonwealth Government officials	60	9,940	..	10,000
5. By filling places of workers on strike or locked out .. .. .	..	..	364	364
7. By resumption without negotiation	127,142	466,084	238,130	831,356
Total	197,202	479,629	442,973	1,119,804

(a) Refers only to disputes involving a stoppage of work of 10 man-days or more. (b) Differences between the total figures of this table and the corresponding totals of other tables in this section are due to disputes which were incomplete at the end of the calendar year.

§ 6. Industrial Accidents.

1. **General.**—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 39, 1950, tables were published showing details of all industrial accidents. These were compiled from returns received from the Chief Inspectors of Factories, the Chief Inspectors of Machinery, the Boiler, Lift and Scaffolding Inspectors, and the Departments of Mines in the several States. However, inquiries revealed that except in the case of mining accidents the usefulness of these statistics was seriously impaired by lack of definition and coverage from State to State and it was decided to publish only the statistics of mining accidents.

2. **Mining Accidents.**—(i) *Sources of Information.*—Information regarding mining accidents is obtained from the Departments of Mines in the respective States. Accidents occurring in crushing and ore-dressing works on mine sites are included in the figures. Similar tables for years prior to 1951 included accidents in all smelting and metallurgical works. Quarries, brick and clay pits, etc., have also been excluded from the following table. The figures shown are therefore not directly comparable with those appearing in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40.

(ii) *Classification.*—(a) 1955.—The following table gives particulars of mining accidents reported to the Mines Department in each State in 1955.

MINING ACCIDENTS: CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO CAUSE, 1955.(a)

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A. (b)	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia. (c)
FATAL ACCIDENTS.							
<i>Metalliferous Mines—</i>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" " " Falls of ground ..	2	..	..	..	..	1	3
" " " Falling down ..	..	..	..	..	4	..	4
" " " shafts, etc.	1	..	1	..	3	..	5
Other Accidents .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Above Ground—(d)							
Accidents caused by machinery in ..	..	..	..	1	1	1	3
motion .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents	4	..	1	..	3	1	9
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing ..							
Works, etc., at Mines	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
<i>Coal Mines—</i>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explo- ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
sions (Fire Damp, etc.) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(Dynamite, etc.)	5	2	..	..	..	..	7
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth ..	11	..	..	..	..	..	11
Other Accidents .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by machinery in ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2
motion .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total	27	2	3	1	12	3	48

For notes see following page.

MINING ACCIDENTS: CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO CAUSE, 1955(a)—
continued.

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A. (b)	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia. (c)
NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS INCAPACITATING FOR OVER 14 DAYS.							
<i>Metalliferous Mines—</i>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	..	..	..	1	4	3	8
" " " Falls of ground ..	1	2	13	..	28	6	50
" " " Falling down shafts, etc. . .	1	..	..	..	19	1	21
Other Accidents ..	235	1	78	3	330	18	665
2. Above Ground—(d)							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion ..	24	..	10	2	33	6	75
Other Accidents ..	50	..	51	4	99	19	223
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing Works, etc., at Mines ..	..	..	67	3	4	31	105
<i>Coal Mines—</i>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions (Fire Damp, etc.) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by Explosives (Dynamite, etc.) ..	14	..	3	..	..	..	17
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth ..	11	4	51	..	2	2	70
Other Accidents ..	44	7	195	..	111	8	365
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion ..	4	..	..	1	..	1	6
Other Accidents ..	15	..	39	1	39	1	95
Total ..	399	14	507	15	669	96	1,700

(a) The figures relating to mining accidents may not in all cases correspond exactly with those published by the State Mines Departments, owing to some lack of uniformity regarding the definition of a non-fatal accident. (b) Excludes uranium mining. (c) Excludes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (d) Excludes quarries, brick and clay pits, etc.

During the year 1955, 30 fatal mining accidents were reported as having occurred below ground in Australia as compared with 18 above ground. Fatal accidents in metalliferous mines in 1955 numbered 26 as against 22 in coal mines. The number of non-fatal mining accidents below ground was 1,196 and above ground 504.

(b) 1956.—The following table gives particulars of mining accidents reported to the Mines Department in each State in 1956.

MINING ACCIDENTS: CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO CAUSE, 1956.(a)

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A. (b)	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia. (c)
FATAL ACCIDENTS.							
<i>Metalliferous Mines—</i>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2
" " " Falls of ground ..	2	1	2	2	1	..	8
" " " Falling down shafts, etc. . .	..	..	1	1	1	..	3
Other Accidents ..	3	..	2	..	4	..	9
2. Above Ground—(d)							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion ..	1	1	1	..	1	..	3
Other Accidents ..	1	..	..	1	1	1	4
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing Works, etc., at Mines ..	..	2	2	..	..	3	7

For notes see following page.

MINING ACCIDENTS: CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO CAUSE, 1956.(a)—
continued.

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A. (b)	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia. (c)
FATAL ACCIDENTS—<i>continued.</i>							
<i>Coal Mines—</i>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explo- sions (Fire Damp, etc.) ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Accidents caused by Explosives (Dynamite, etc.) ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other Accidents	7	1	..	..	..	..	8
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion	1	..	1	..	1	..	3
Other Accidents	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total	25	5	9	4	9	4	56

NON-FATAL ACCIDENTS INCAPACITATING FOR OVER 14 DAYS.

<i>Metalliferous Mines—</i>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	1	..	3	..	4	2	10
" " " Falls of ground ..	61	2	7	..	39	4	113
" " " Falling down shafts, etc... ..	3	2	..	7	15	..	20
Other Accidents	188	..	48	..	306	33	582
2. Above Ground—(d)							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion	21	1	6	2	25	6	61
Other Accidents	68	..	61	11	100	19	259
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing Works, etc., at Mines .. ..	..	..	102	2	6	45	155
<i>Coal Mines—</i>							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explo- sions (Fire Damp, etc.) ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Accidents caused by Explosives (Dynamite, etc.)	17	1	..	..	..	..	18
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth ..	27	4	46	..	6	4	87
Other Accidents	45	1	150	..	124	7	327
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion	2	..	2	..	1	2	7
Other Accidents	12	1	22	2	17	4	58
Total	446	12	447	24	643	126	1,698

(a) The figures relating to mining accidents may not in all cases correspond exactly with those published by the State Mines Departments, owing to some lack of uniformity regarding the definition of a non-fatal accident. (b) Excludes uranium mining. (c) Excludes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (d) Excludes quarries, brick and clay pits, etc.

During the year 1956, 37 fatal mining accidents were reported as having occurred below ground in Australia as compared with 19 above ground. Fatal accidents in metalliferous mines in 1956 numbered 36 as against 20 in coal mines. The number of non-fatal mining accidents below ground was 1,158 and above ground 540.

§ 7. Workers' Compensation Legislation.

In the following pages is a summary of the principal provisions of Workers' Compensation Acts in force in Australia as at 30th June, 1957.

CONSPECTUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS

State.	Acts in Force.	Judicial Administration.
New South Wales	Workers' Compensation Act, 1926-1957	Workers' Compensation Commission (Judges, District Court status). In practice, Judge sits alone; four Courts sit at one time
Victoria.. ..	Workers' Compensation Act 1951-1953	County Court Judge (sitting with workers' and employers' representatives as Workers' Compensation Board)
Queensland ..	Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1956	Special Insurance Commissioner (no legal qualifications required by Statute)
South Australia ..	Workmen's Compensation Act, 1932-1956	Special Magistrates
Western Australia	Workers' Compensation Act, 1912-1956	Workers' Compensation Board of three members; Chairman, a legal practitioner, and a nominee of (a) employers' organization and (b) employees' organization
Tasmania ..	Workers' Compensation Act 1927-1957	Supreme Court Judges (sitting alone)
Commonwealth of Australia	Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act 1930-1956	One Commissioner (Secretary to the Treasury), with power of delegation
Australian Capital Territory	Workmen's Compensation Ordinance 1951-1956	Matters in dispute may by consent of each party be settled by arbitration by a committee or by a single arbitrator. Questions of law may be referred to the Court of Petty Sessions
Northern Territory	Workmen's Compensation Ordinance 1949-1954	Matters in dispute may by consent of each party be settled by arbitration by a committee or by a single arbitrator, or they may be settled by a Local Court

IN AUSTRALIA (AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1957).

Appeals.	Maximum Wages of "Workers" Compensated.	Waiting Period.	Medical, Surgical and Hospital Expenses.
On the question of law only to Supreme Court, High Court and Privy Council	Unlimited ..	Nil ..	£300 medical and surgical; £300 hospital; £25 ambulance; unless Commission directs that employer shall be liable for a further specified sum
On question of law upon case stated for opinion of Full Court of the Supreme Court, High Court, Privy Council	£2,000, excluding overtime	Nil ..	Unlimited medical, hospital, nursing and ambulance service and costs of burial
Any person claiming compensation who objects to the ruling thereon of the Insurance Commissioner may require the matter to be heard and determined by an Industrial Magistrate. Either party to the proceedings may appeal from his decision. Such appeal shall be made to the Full Bench of the Industrial Court. Unless the Court orders that additional evidence shall be taken, the appeal which shall be by way of rehearing shall be heard and determined upon the evidence and proceedings before the Industrial Magistrate concerned	Unlimited ..	1 day for compensation	£70 hospital; £70 medical; in death where no dependants, medical expenses and burial, maximum £100
Questions of law and fact to Supreme Court, High Court, Privy Council	£1,826 p.a. (£35 p.w.) (overtime allowances excluded)	1 day, Nil for payment of medical expenses	£5 for transport; £40 for treatment by doctor, etc., or for medical appliances; £100 for hospital; £5 for registered nurse; maximum of all £150. Special Magistrate may order payment of expenses in excess of £150 actually and reasonably incurred
Jurisdiction exclusive; decisions final on facts. Board may state a case for Full Court of Supreme Court on matters of law	Unlimited ..	Nil ..	£109 1s. 2d. medical, £163 11s. 10d. hospital, £54 10s. 7d. funeral in the case of males; and £109 1s. medical, £163 11s. 6d. hospital, £54 10s. 6d. funeral in the case of females
To Full Court by way of rehearing, High Court, Privy Council	£35 p.w. ..	Nil ..	£200
Rehearing by Local, County or District Court, then appeal to Supreme Court on questions of law, High Court, Privy Council	Unlimited. Application only to Commonwealth Government employees, and of such Commonwealth authorities as are prescribed	Nil ..	£200 medical, surgical or hospital, or over in exceptional circumstances if Commissioner considers circumstances warrant. £60 funeral expenses
An appeal to the Supreme Court may be made from the decision of a committee or an arbitrator or of the Court of Petty Sessions	£2,000, excluding overtime, bonuses and special allowances	Nil ..	Not exceeding £200 unless exceptional circumstances warrant payment of larger sum
An appeal to the Supreme Court may be made from the decision of a committee or an arbitrator or of a Local Court	£2,000 per annum, exclusive of payments for overtime, bonuses and special allowances	Nil ..	Not exceeding £200 for medical, surgical or hospital treatment or ambulance service, except in special circumstances. This is additional to other compensation

CONSPECTUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS

State.	Workers' Compensation Payments				
	Percentage of Average Weekly Earnings (a.w.e.).				Maximum.
New South Wales	75 per cent.	..	..	..	£9 15s. with no dependants; with dependants £14 5s. or a.w.e., whichever is lower
Victoria .. ..	..	..	..	..	<i>Adult</i> £8 16s. with no dependants (with dependants £12 16s. or a.w.e., whichever is lower). <i>Minor</i> £6 8s. without dependants (with dependants £11 4s. or a.w.e., whichever is lower)
Queensland ..	75 per cent.	..	..	..	£9 10s. adjustable according to movements of basic wage (with dependants, a.w.e.)
South Australia ..	75 per cent.	..	..	..	Married man with dependent wife or child under 16 years, £12 16s. or a.w.e., whichever is lower. Any other workman, £8 15s.
Western Australia	..	..	..	..	Adult male on or above basic wage, £9 12s. p.w. with no dependants. (With dependants, £13 10s. p.w. or a.w.e., whichever is lower.) Adult female on or above female basic wage, £6 11s. p.w. with no dependants. (With dependants, £9 16s. p.w. or a.w.e., whichever is lower.) Male or female below basic wage, such sum as bears to £9 12s. p.w. or £6 11s. p.w. respectively, the ratio which his or her a.w.e. bear to the basic wage at the date of accident (with no dependants). (With dependants the maximum is the a.w.e.)
Tasmania ..	..	..	..	..	£10 plus dependants' allowances or 75 per cent. of a.w.e., whichever is lower
Commonwealth of Australia	..	..	..	..	£8 15s. (£6 10s. if a minor not receiving adult rate of pay) plus allowances for dependants; or a sum equal to the pay of the employee at the time of the injury or of the rate of pay of an employee of the same class as subsequently varied by competent authority or following upon a variation in the cost of living; whichever is the less. In all cases plus the cost of medical treatment
Australian Capital Territory	..	..	..	..	Same as Commonwealth of Australia (above)
Northern Territory	..	..	..	..	Same as Commonwealth of Australia (above)

IN AUSTRALIA (AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1957)—continued.

In case of Total Disablement.

Minimum.	In respect of Dependants.	Total Liability.
Adult male, £6 7s. 6d. Adults whose a.w.e. are less than £8 10s., 100 per cent. of a.w.e. but not exceeding £6 7s. 6d. Minors whose a.w.e. are less than £6, 100 per cent. of a.w.e. but not exceeding £4 10s.	£2 15s. for wife or adult dependant, plus £1 2s. 6d. per child (including children to whom worker stands <i>in loco parentis</i>), subject to prescribed maximum	Unlimited.
Nil	£2 8s. for wife or relative caring for his children if wife or relative is wholly or mainly dependent upon him, plus 16s. per child under 16 years of age, subject to prescribed maximum	£2,800 except in cases of (a) permanent and total disablement, or (b) permanent and partial disablement of major degree
£4, or 100 per cent. of a.w.e. Not less than £3 10s. in the case of Commonwealth Age and Invalid Pensioners	£2 10s. per week for wife, 15s. per week each child and stepchild under 16 years of age, subject to prescribed maximum	£2,800
£3, except for workman under 21 with no dependants whose a.w.e. were less than £3, where minimum payment is a.w.e.	£2 10s. for dependent wife and £1 each child under 16 years of age	£2,600
£4 7s., or 100 per cent. of a.w.e., whichever is lower	£2 10s. for dependent wife, £1 each dependent child or dependent stepchild under 16 years of age	(a) where permanent incapacity results, £2,750. (b) other than (a), £2,617.
Nil	£2 10s. for wife or any relative standing <i>in loco parentis</i> to the children of the worker, £1 4s. 6d. per child under 16 years of age, subject to prescribed maximum	£2,340
Same as for maximum ..	£2 5s. (a) for dependent wife; or (b) female dependant over 16 years of age, who is either caring for a child under 16 years of age and dependent on employee or a member of employee's family, plus £1 per dependent child, subject to maximum of weekly pay at date of injury	£2,350 except in respect of total and permanent incapacity, when liability unlimited
Same as for maximum ..	£2 5s. for wife or a female (over 16 years of age) wholly or mainly dependent upon the workman, who is a member of his family or caring for a child under 16 years of age wholly or mainly dependent on the workman, plus £1 for each child under 16 years of age who is wholly or mainly dependent upon the workman	Unlimited where the injury results in the total and permanent incapacity of the workman for work, otherwise £2,350 plus the cost of medical treatment
Nil	Same as Australian Capital Territory (above)	£2,350, excluding cost of medical, surgical and hospital treatment and ambulance service. This does not limit compensation in case of death or total and permanent incapacity

CONSPECTUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS

State.	Death Payments.		
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Special Provision for Children.
New South Wales	Four years' earnings: £2,750. Deduction of lump sum or weekly payments made before death from death benefit is not permitted. Maximum funeral expenses when workman leaves no dependants are £80.	£1,000	£150 additional for each dependent child under 16 years of age
Victoria ..	£2,240, plus £80 for each dependent child (excluding payments for total incapacity, if any, paid prior to death)	Nil	Yes
Queensland ..	£2,500, plus £75 for each child and stepchild under 16 years of age (total dependants); in case of minors dependency is presumed and minimum of £200 is payable to parents of deceased worker	£2,500 total dependants; £250 partial dependants; £200 death of worker under 21 years of age	£75 each for child or stepchild
South Australia	Four years' earnings, maximum £2,350, plus £80 for each dependent child, plus burial expenses not exceeding £60 (excluding weekly payments for partial or total incapacity, if any, paid prior to death)	£500, plus £80 for each dependent child	£80 for each dependent child
Western Australia	£3,000, plus £82 for each dependent child under 16 years of age not being an ex-nuptial child	£873 for a wholly dependent widow, mother, child or stepchild under 16 years of age only, plus £82 for each dependent child	£82 for each dependent child or stepchild under 16 years of age not being an ex-nuptial child
Tasmania ..	£2,240, plus £80 for each dependent child under 16 years of age	Nil	Yes
Commonwealth of Australia	£2,350, plus £100 for each dependent child	Proportionate payment for partial dependency	£100 additional for each totally or mainly dependent child under 16 years of age
Australian Capital Territory	£2,350 plus £100 for each dependent child under 16 years of age, plus the cost of medical treatment. Any amount, by way of weekly payments, paid or payable before the death of the workman in respect of his total or partial incapacity for work shall be disregarded	Same as for maximum	£100 for each dependent child under 16 years of age
Northern Territory	£2,350, plus £100 for each dependent child under 16 years of age, plus up to £60 funeral expenses	Nil	£100 for each dependent child under 16 years of age

IN AUSTRALIA (AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1957)—continued.

Lump Sum for Scheduled Injuries.	Provision <i>re</i> Aged and Injured Workers.	Insurance.
Yes. Two or more such sums may be claimed in respect of the same accident without any limit on total amount so payable. No deduction in respect of weekly payments is permitted	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes (excluding payments made on account of period of illness resulting from injury)	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes	No, except provision for minimum payments disablement	Compulsory with State Government Insurance Office
Yes	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes	No .. .. .	.. .. .
Yes. Such payment is not subject to deduction in respect of any amount previously paid by way of a weekly payment	No	Compulsory (unless exempted by the Minister) and competitive
Yes. This is in addition to previous weekly payments	No	Compulsory (unless exempted by the Administrator) and competitive

CONSPECTUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS

State.	Government Insurance Office	Compensation payable in respect of injuries received whilst travelling to or from work.
New South Wales	Yes, competitive	Same as for injury arising out of or in course of employment
Victoria	Yes, competitive	Yes
Queensland	Yes, monopoly	As for other injuries
South Australia	No, except for employees of South Australian Government	Only if being conveyed by employer's transport or travelling to a trade, technical or other school for training
Western Australia	Yes. Competitive, except in mining operations	Only if travelling between employer's establishment and any trade, technical or other training school during ordinary working hours
Tasmania	Yes, competitive	Yes, if travelling to a trade, technical or other training school. Cover is also provided while a worker is travelling between his place of residence and his place of employment, provided he is travelling in a vehicle belonging to, hired by or used under contract with his employer for the conveyance of workers to and from their places of employment.
Commonwealth of Australia	.. .. .	Yes
Australian Capital Territory	No	Yes
Northern Territory	No	Yes

IN AUSTRALIA (AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1957)—*continued*.

Dusts.			
Silicosis.		Other Dusts.	
Maximum Weekly Payments.	Total Liability.	Maximum Weekly Payments.	Total Liability.
Special scheme with benefits as for other injuries	Special scheme with benefits as for other injuries	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
£7	Compensation is payable to a sufferer during his lifetime. On death weekly payments to widow continue until total of £2,500 paid. Minimum aggregate payment to widow, £300; maximum weekly payment to widow, £5	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
Workmen's Compensation Scheme (Silicosis) As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
Workers' (Occupational Diseases) Relief Fund Act 1954 Unmarried, £10; married, £12 10s; £1 4s. 6d. each child under 16 years	£2,340	As for silicosis ..	£2,340
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries

CHAPTER V.—LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.

§ 1. Labour Organizations in Australia.

1. **General.**—In Labour Report No. 2 an outline was given of the method adopted to ascertain the number of members of labour organizations in Australia, and tabulated results up to the end of 1912 were included. From the beginning of 1913, quarterly returns were obtained from a considerable number of trade unions, and these were supplemented at the end of each year by special inquiries as to the membership of those unions which, owing to the nature of the callings and industries covered, were unable to furnish quarterly returns. The affairs of single unions are not disclosed in the published results and this has assisted in securing complete information. The Bureau is indebted to the secretaries of trade unions for their co-operation in supplying information.

In this chapter figures for the years 1953 to 1956 are compared with those for 1939. Particulars for earlier years will be found in preceding issues of the Labour Report.

2. **Trade Unions.**—(i) *Number and Membership, States.*—The following table gives particulars of the number of separate unions and the number of members at the end of the years 1939 and 1953 to 1957:—

TRADE UNIONS: NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP.

Year.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
NUMBER OF SEPARATE UNIONS.									
1939..	200	149	114	117	141	79	4	15	(a) 380
1953..	224	159	129	138	152	98	18	28	(a) 365
1954..	228	158	129	138	154	98	18	29	(a) 371
1955..	235	160	130	138	154	101	20	32	(a) 372
1956..	237	162	135	140	157	101	23	33	(a) 375
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.									
1939..	358,391	216,803	180,653	67,282	67,833	22,062	761	1,685	915,470
1953..	665,737	424,428	285,718	140,154	107,642	48,293	2,535	5,251	1,679,758
1954..	732,737	433,891	305,304	147,555	109,589	50,290	2,168	5,970	1,787,504
1955..	731,960	446,372	305,509	146,422	111,959	51,401	2,440	5,799	1,801,862
1956..	736,152	441,286	314,782	147,728	110,447	52,708	2,352	5,953	1,811,408
PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP.(b)									
1939..	3.3	0.8	6.5	8.7	0.1	4.8	5.6	9.6	3.4
1953..	2.6	1.9	3.9	1.9	2.1	2.9	8.3	7.7	2.6
1954..	10.1	2.2	6.9	5.3	1.8	4.1	-14.5	13.7	6.4
1955..	-0.1	2.9	0.1	-0.8	2.2	2.2	12.5	-2.9	0.8
1956..	0.6	-1.1	3.0	0.9	-1.4	2.5	-3.6	2.7	0.5

(a) Without interstate duplication. (See letterpress below.) (b) On preceding year.

NOTE.—Minus sign (—) denotes decrease.

The substantial increase in the number of members of trade unions in 1954 was partly the result of an amendment to the New South Wales Industrial Arbitration Act, 1940-1953, which gave absolute preference of employment to members of appropriate trade unions, and also made it compulsory for persons over 18 years of age working under State awards or agreements (except students, those holding managerial positions, conscientious objectors and ex-servicemen) to join an appropriate trade union.

The types of trade unions in Australia vary greatly, and range from the small independent association to the large interstate organization, which, in its turn, may be a branch of an international body. Broadly speaking, there are four distinct classes of labour organizations:—(i) the local independent; (ii) the State; (iii) the interstate; and (iv) the Australasian or international. The schemes of organization of interstate or federated unions vary greatly in character. In some unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification with centralized control, while in others the State units are practically independent and self-governing, the federal bond being loose and existing only for one or two specified purposes.

In the preceding table, under the heading "Number of Separate Unions", a union with members in a State is counted as one union within that State. The figures by States do not add to the Australian total (shown in the last column) because a union represented in more than one State is included in the figure for each State in which it is represented, but is counted only once in the Australian total.

The collection of statistics relating to the "Number of Branches" of trade unions appearing in issues of this publication prior to No. 39 has been discontinued.

(ii) *Number and Membership, Industrial Groups.*—The following table gives the number and membership of trade unions in Australia in industrial groups at the end of the years 1953 to 1956 compared with 1939.

TRADE UNIONS: INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA.

Industrial Group.	1939.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.
NUMBER OF SEPARATE UNIONS.(a)					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	4	6	6	6	6
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	22	15	15	15	15
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . .	35	36	39	37	35
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc. . .	12	6	6	7	7
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	8	6	6	6	6
VI. Other Manufacturing . . .	37	37	36	36	38
VII. Building . . .	28	28	28	29	29
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. . .	13	12	13	13	13
IX. Railway and Tramway Services . .	29	25	26	25	25
X. Other Transport . . .	6	9	9	9	10
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. . .	21	13	13	14	14
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . .	5	3	3	3	3
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . .	18	14	12	12	12
XIV. Miscellaneous—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical . . .	20	17	18	19	20
(ii) Public Service . . .	50	63	61	62	63
(iii) Retail and Wholesale . . .	8	13	13	12	12
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring . . .	11	10	10	10	10
(v) Other Miscellaneous . . .	53	52	57	57	57
Total . . .	380	365	371	372	375

(a) Without interstate duplication. See above.

TRADE UNIONS: INDUSTRIAL GROUPS, AUSTRALIA—*continued.*

Industrial Group.	1939.	1953.	1954.	1955.	1956.
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc.	27,990	43,051	43,572	47,678	46,081
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	99,731	246,217	258,838	266,897	267,141
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc.	80,328	95,806	104,335	106,865	105,230
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	68,847	111,788	117,292	107,618	105,064
V. Books, Printing, etc.	22,303	35,467	38,912	41,514	42,464
VI. Other Manufacturing	52,074	80,027	84,456	85,023	83,537
VII. Building	45,651	123,811	143,071	134,224	145,448
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc.	48,812	50,515	49,833	46,641	47,081
IX. Railway and Tramway Services	105,938	143,642	143,680	146,401	145,791
X. Other Transport	19,488	59,494	62,025	66,627	60,293
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc.	28,760	39,941	40,372	41,612	39,328
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.	40,276	62,070	63,831	66,224	64,717
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.	13,177	33,025	36,611	37,722	38,209
XIV. Miscellaneous—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical	39,013	108,605	112,946	114,218	110,734
(ii) Public Service	89,848	195,777	202,797	203,437	209,497
(iii) Retail and Wholesale	36,290	62,723	72,664	71,583	72,635
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring	46,552	75,097	81,115	83,572	86,231
(v) Other Miscellaneous	50,392	112,702	131,154	134,006	141,927
Total	915,470	1,679,758	1,787,504	1,801,862	1,811,408

(iii) *Numbers of Members and Proportion of Wage and Salary Earners.*—

(a) *General.*—The following tables show the estimated percentages of wage and salary earners in employment who are members of trade unions. The data on which the numbers of wage and salary earners are based are described in Chapter IV. (pp. 110-111). As current estimates of wage and salary earners in employment do not include employees engaged in rural industry or females in private domestic service, the percentages have been calculated on figures obtained by adding to the end of year estimates the numbers of employees in rural industry and female private domestic service recorded at the Census of June, 1954. For this reason, and also because the membership of trade unions includes some persons not in employment, the percentages shown in the tables must be regarded as approximations.

(b) *States.*—The table below shows for each State, the numbers of males, females and persons who were members of trade unions in December, 1955 and 1956 and the estimated percentages as described above. In interpreting these, it should be noted that certain employees such as those in professional occupations may not be eligible for membership of a specified union, while others may not reside in a locality covered by a union devoted to their particular trade or occupation. The percentages are not directly comparable with those published in previous issues of the Labour Report.

TRADE UNIONS: NUMBER OF MEMBERS AND PROPORTION OF TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, STATES, DECEMBER, 1955 AND 1956.

State.	Number of Members.			Proportion of Total Wage and Salary Earners. (Per cent.)		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
31ST DECEMBER, 1955.						
New South Wales <i>a</i>	597,708	140,051	737,759	71	44	63
Victoria ..	357,519	88,853	446,372	61	37	54
Queensland ..	241,499	64,010	305,509	77	65	74
South Australia ..	126,276	20,146	146,422	65	30	56
Western Australia	95,805	16,154	111,959	64	34	57
Tasmania ..	42,994	8,407	51,401	62	36	55
Australia(b)	1,464,016	337,846	1,801,862	68	43	61

31ST DECEMBER, 1956.						
New South Wales <i>a</i>	600,167	141,938	742,105	70	44	63
Victoria ..	356,531	84,755	441,286	60	35	53
Queensland ..	245,798	68,984	314,782	78	70	76
South Australia ..	127,911	19,817	147,728	65	30	56
Western Australia	93,907	16,540	110,447	63	35	57
Tasmania ..	44,164	8,544	52,708	62	36	56
Australia(b)	1,470,606	340,802	1,811,408	67	43	61

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(c) *Australia*.—Similar particulars for Australia as at the end of each of the years 1939 and 1953 to 1956 are given in the following table.

TRADE UNIONS: NUMBER OF MEMBERS AND PROPORTION OF TOTAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS(a), AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number of Members.			Proportion of Total Wage and Salary Earners. (Per cent.)		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
1939	778,336	137,134	915,470	52	24	44
1953	1,381,103	298,655	1,679,758	67	40	60
1954	1,448,223	339,281	1,787,504	68	44	62
1955	1,464,016	337,846	1,801,862	68	43	61
1956	1,470,606	340,802	1,811,408	67	43	61

(a) Includes allowance for unemployed.

(iv) *Classification according to Number of Members.*—The following table shows the number and membership of all trade unions in Australia at the end of each of the years 1939 and 1953 to 1956, classified according to size. In this table interstate unions are counted once only.

TRADE UNIONS: CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF MEMBERS,
AUSTRALIA.

Classifi- cation.	Under 2,000.	2,000 and under 5,000.	5,000 and under 10,000.	10,000 and under 20,000.	20,000 and under 30,000.	30,000 and under 40,000.	40,000 and under 50,000.	50,000 and over.	Total.
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NUMBER OF UNIONS.

1939 ..	298	41	14	19	5	3			380
1953 ..	263	38	25	12	12	5	5	5	365
1954 ..	267	38	24	13	13	6	4	6	371
1955 ..	264	43	20	17	10	10	2	6	372
1956 ..	266	42	22	16	10	10	3	6	375

MEMBERSHIP.

1939 ..	125,565	134,204	87,077	265,710	122,519	180,395			915,470
1953 ..	140,908	123,436	178,149	172,652	287,554	161,169	216,741	399,149	1,679,758
1954 ..	136,756	121,106	171,494	176,013	320,490	210,700	183,474	467,471	1,787,504
1955 ..	134,101	134,823	140,970	222,814	243,592	358,009	91,819	475,734	1,801,862
1956 ..	132,698	126,736	153,548	211,937	235,043	350,672	136,062	464,712	1,811,408

PROPORTION OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP. (PER CENT.)

1939 ..	13.7	14.6	9.5	29.1	13.4	19.7			100.0
1953 ..	8.4	7.3	10.6	10.3	17.1	9.6	12.9	23.8	100.0
1954 ..	7.7	6.8	9.6	9.8	17.9	11.7	10.3	26.2	100.0
1955 ..	7.5	7.5	7.8	12.3	13.5	19.9	5.1	26.4	100.0
1956 ..	7.3	7.0	8.5	11.7	13.0	19.4	7.5	25.6	100.0

In the last part of the preceding table the percentage which the membership in each group bears to the total membership of all groups is given. The tendency towards closer organization is evidenced by the fact that although membership of trade unions increased between 1912 and 1956 by 318 per cent., the number of unions having less than 2,000 members considerably decreased, namely, from 360 to 266. In 1956, 7.3 per cent. of trade union members belonged to unions having less than 2,000 members as compared with 13.7 per cent. in 1939 and 28.1 per cent. in 1912.

(v) *Interstate or Federated Trade Unions.*—The following table gives particulars regarding the number and membership of interstate or federated trade unions having branches in two or more States. The figures include interstate unions registered under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, as well as federated unions which are not so registered:—

INTERSTATE OR FEDERATED TRADE UNIONS: NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP.(a)

Particulars.		Unions Operating in—					Total.
		2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	
Number of Unions	{ 1939 ..	19	11	20	24	42	116
	{ 1953 ..	12	12	20	35	60	139
	{ 1954 ..	12	11	26	32	58	139
	{ 1955 ..	14	9	21	32	65	141
	{ 1956 ..	14	8	22	33	66	143
Number of Members	{ 1939 ..	30,888	33,319	120,664	209,369	361,884	756,124
	{ 1953 ..	32,050	46,691	134,998	381,910	885,795	1,481,444
	{ 1954 ..	32,889	54,725	179,527	496,509	809,283	1,572,933
	{ 1955 ..	34,536	59,752	144,282	420,769	925,723	1,585,062
	{ 1956 ..	33,864	61,257	142,799	425,861	928,870	1,592,651

(a) Certain unions have, in addition to branches in the States, branches in the Northern Territory and in the Australian Capital Territory.

The number of organizations operating in two or more States increased from 72 in 1912 to 143 in 1956, and the ratio of the membership of such organizations to the total membership of all organizations rose from 65 per cent. to 88 per cent. during the same period.

3. **Central Labour Organizations.**—In each of the capital cities, as well as in a number of other industrial centres, delegate organizations, consisting of representatives from a group of trade unions, have been established. Their revenue is raised by means of a *per capita* tax on the members of each affiliated union. In the majority of the towns where such central organizations exist, most of the local unions are affiliated with the central organization, which is usually known as the Labour or the Trades Hall Council. In Western Australia a unified system of organization extends over the industrial centres throughout the State, and there is a provincial branch of the Australian Labour Party, having a central council and executive, and metropolitan and branch district councils with which the local bodies are affiliated. The central council, on which all district councils are represented, meets periodically. In the other States, however, the organization is not so close, and though provision usually exists in the rules of the central council in the capital city of each State for the organization of district councils, or for the representation on the central council of the local councils in the smaller industrial centres of the State, the councils in each State are, as a matter of fact, independent bodies. The following table shows, for each State, the number of metropolitan and district or local labour councils, together with the number of unions and branches of unions affiliated therewith, at the end of the years 1939 and 1953 to 1956.

CENTRAL LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS : NUMBER, AND UNIONS AND BRANCH UNIONS AFFILIATED.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aus- tralia.
No. of Councils { 1939 ..	3	5	6	2	8	2	..	1	27
1953 ..	10	9	12	6	10	5	1	1	54
1954 ..	11	9	13	6	10	4	1	1	55
1955 ..	11	9	13	6	10	5	..	1	55
1956 ..	11	9	13	6	10	5	..	1	55
No. of Unions { 1939 ..	103	179	79	50	210	59	..	9	689
and Branch { 1953 ..	255	275	128	127	369	109	4	20	1,287
Unions { 1954 ..	288	270	152	124	399	92	4	21	1,350
Affiliated { 1955 ..	287	263	152	132	397	103	..	22	1,356
1956 ..	290	262	161	141	399	103	..	22	1,378

The figures regarding number of unions do not necessarily represent separate unions, since the branches of a large union may be affiliated with the local trades councils in the several towns in which they are represented.

Between the trade union and the central organization of unions may be classed certain State or district councils organized on trade lines and composed of delegates from separate unions whose members' interests are closely connected by reason of their occupations. Delegate councils of bakers, bread carters and mill employees, or of unions connected directly or indirectly with the metal trades, or with the building trades, may be so classed.

A Central Labour Organization, now called the Australian Council of Trade Unions, came into being during 1927. The Council was created to function on behalf of the trade unions of Australia, and was founded at an All-Australian Trade Union Congress held in Melbourne in May, 1927. The Australian Council of Trade Unions consists of affiliated unions and affiliated Metropolitan and/or State Labour Councils and Provincial Councils. The Metropolitan or State Labour Council in each State is the State Branch of the A.C.T.U. and has the right to appoint two representatives to act on the Executive of the Council. In addition to the representatives from the Metropolitan or State Labour Councils, the Executive consists of four officers, namely, the President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary, who are elected by and from the Australian Congress of Trade Unions.

The objectives of the Council are the socialization of industry, i.e., production, distribution and exchange, and the utilization of the resources of Australia for the benefit of the people—ensuring full employment, with rising standards of living, real security and full cultural opportunities for all. The methods to be adopted are:—the closer organization of the workers by the transformation of the Australian Trade Union Movement from the craft to an industrial basis, by grouping of unions in their respective industries and by the establishment of one union in each industry; the consolidation of the Australian Labour Movement with the object of unified control, administration, and action; the centralized control of industrial disputes; educational propaganda among unions; and political action to secure satisfactory working-class legislation.

The A.C.T.U. is the first interstate body in Australia with authority to deal with industrial matters of an interstate character affecting the trade union movement generally. It is also the body responsible for submitting to the Commonwealth Government the names of persons suitable for selection as the Australian workers' delegate to the annual International Labour Conference.

4. Organizations Registered under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.—

Under Part VIII. of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act any association of employers in any industry who have, or any employer who has, employed not less than 100 employees during the six months preceding application for registration, and any association of not less than 100 employees in any industry may be registered.* Registered unions include both interstate associations and associations operating within one State only.

At the end of 1955 the number of employers' organizations registered under the provisions of the Act was 56 and at the end of 1956, 58. The number of unions registered at the end of 1955 was 152 with membership of 1,469,045, representing 81 per cent. of the total membership of all trade unions in Australia. At the end of 1956 the number of unions registered was 154 with membership of 1,470,112, or 81 per cent. of total membership.

§ 2. International Labour Organization.

1. **General.**—The International Labour Organization (I.L.O.) was established on 11th April, 1919, as an autonomous institution associated with the League of Nations. Its original constitution was adopted as Part XIII. of the Treaty of Versailles and formed part of other treaties of peace. During the years between its establishment and the outbreak of the 1939–45 War, the I.L.O., with head-quarters in Geneva, played a leading role in promoting the improvement of labour conditions throughout the world. In 1940, in order to ensure that the I.L.O. should be able to continue to function freely, a working centre was established at Montreal. In 1946 the Organization became the first of the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Under the terms of agreement, the United Nations recognizes the I.L.O. as a specialized agency having responsibility in the field defined by its constitution, which embraces labour conditions, industrial relations, employment organization, social security and other aspects of social policy. The Organization has three basic parts. These are the International Labour Conference, its highest authority, which as a rule meets annually; the Governing Body, its executive council, which usually meets four times each year; and the International Labour Office, which provides the Secretariat of the Organization. The Conference is composed of delegations from the Member States of the Organization. In August, 1956 there were 76 Member States, each of which is entitled to be represented by four delegates—two Government, one representing employers and one representing workers, together with their advisers. In accordance with amendments adopted at the 36th Session of the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body, as from the elections held in Geneva in 1954, has consisted of the representatives of twenty governments, and ten employers' and ten workers' representatives. Particulars are given in previous issues of the Labour Report of the proceedings of International Labour Conferences up to the 38th Session which was held in Geneva in June, 1955.

2. **The International Labour Conference.**—The 39th Session of the International Labour Conference was convened in Geneva on 6th June, 1956. The Australian delegation consisted of:—Government delegates: Dr. I. G. Sharp, Mr. G. A. Jockel; Employers' delegate: Mr. L. C. Burne; Workers' delegate: Mr. D. H. L. Banfield.

* Under the Public Service Arbitration Act an association of less than 100 employees may be registered as an organization provided that its members comprise at least three-fifths of all persons engaged in that industry in the Service. Such organizations are included in the figures shown in the paragraph following.

The Conference considered, among other things, welfare facilities for workers, forced labour, weekly rest in commerce and offices, and living and working conditions of indigenous populations in independent countries.

3. **Governing Body.**—Australia was represented as a full member at the 130th and 131st Sessions of the Governing Body, which met in Geneva in November, 1955 and March, 1956, respectively, by Mr. R. L. Harry, the then Australian Permanent Delegate to the European office of the United Nations. Mr. Patrick Shaw, Australian Ambassador in Bonn, represented Australia at the 132nd Session, which met in Geneva in June, 1956.

4. **General Conferences.**—In addition to the above-mentioned conferences, Australia was represented at a number of the specialist and regional conferences held by the I.L.O., such as the Joint Maritime Commission (Paris, October, 1955), the Asian Advisory Committee (Geneva, November, 1955), the Coal Mines Committee (Istanbul, April, 1956), the Building, Civil Engineering and Public Works Committee (Geneva, May, 1956) and the Preparatory Maritime Conference (London, September, 1956).

APPENDIX.

SECTION I.

SYDNEY: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES^(a) OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1955.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1955.
Groceries, etc.—		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bread ^(b) ..	2 lb.	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	14.30	13.80	13.80	13.80	13.80	13.80	13.59
Flour, plain ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	13.19	13.19	13.19	13.19	13.19	13.19	12.60
" self-raising ..	"	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	19.75
Tea ..	lb.	89.00	89.00	89.00	89.00	89.00	89.00	74.20	74.20	84.65	84.65	84.65	84.65	85.08
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Rice ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Tapioca, seed ..	"	12.20	12.55	12.55	12.15	12.15	12.30	12.30	12.56	12.60	12.60	13.00	13.00	12.50
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	29.50	29.75	29.80	29.80	29.80	29.85	29.85	29.85	29.85	29.85	29.85	29.85	29.80
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.45	19.05	19.05	19.05	19.05	18.70
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	8.56	9.00	9.00	9.00	10.08	10.08	10.08	11.00	11.04	11.00	11.00	11.00	10.07
Raisins, seeded ..	"	31.75	31.70	31.80	31.80	31.80	31.80	31.80	31.90	31.40	31.50	30.30	30.30	31.49
Currants ..	"	24.67	24.67	24.67	24.88	24.88	24.88	24.88	24.92	25.17	25.17	25.50	25.50	24.98
Apricots, dried ..	"	64.00	64.00	60.44	61.19	62.50	61.17	62.44	62.44	60.90	61.30	65.00	63.00	62.37
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65
Pears, canned ..	"	41.60	41.60	41.60	41.60	41.60	41.60	41.60	41.60	41.60	41.60	41.70	41.70	41.62
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	30.62	38.50	44.33	39.90	42.85	42.10	53.10	53.61	56.18	55.73	52.90	58.35	47.35
Onions, brown ..	lb.	8.33	7.80	7.90	7.80	8.30	8.80	9.90	9.60	10.10	10.10	15.80	12.00	9.70
Soap ..	"	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.20	18.20	18.20	18.20	18.29
Kerosene ..	quart	8.13	8.15	8.15	8.15	8.15	8.15	8.46	8.72	8.72	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.29
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	49.50	49.30	49.30	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.30	53.30	53.10	53.10	53.10	53.10	50.97
Cheese, mild ..	"	33.56	33.56	33.56	33.56	33.56	33.86	33.86	36.19	36.19	36.19	36.13	36.69	34.74
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	63.00	66.00	66.00	72.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	66.00	66.50
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	66.61	66.94	68.11	69.00	69.00	69.00	72.13	72.78	72.67	75.33	75.67	75.78	71.09
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.30	23.30	23.30	23.30	23.43
" fresh, loose ^{(b)(c)} ..	quart	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" " in bottles ^{(b)(c)} ..	"	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
Meat—		March	Quarter, 1955.		June	Quarter, 1955.		September	Quarter, 1955.		December	Quarter, 1955.		
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	45.17			45.19			44.45			44.21			44.76
" rib (without bone) ^(d) ..	"		34.37		34.20			34.52			34.22			34.33
" steak, rump ..	"		58.16		57.30			56.98			56.60			57.26
" " chuck ..	"		30.83		29.93			30.22			30.03			30.25
" sausages ..	"		20.01		20.03			20.60			20.47			20.28
Beef (corned) silver-side ..	"		37.09			35.53			34.17			36.00		35.70
" " brisket ..	"		26.54			24.53			24.20			24.45		24.93
Mutton, leg ..	"		21.61			22.87			23.00			23.45		22.73
" forequarter ..	"		14.30			15.11			16.37			15.88		15.42
" loin ..	"		24.04			24.77			25.77			25.10		24.92
" chops, loin ..	"		24.17			24.70			25.83			25.10		24.95
" " leg ..	"		25.00			25.97			26.78			26.30		26.01
Pork, leg ..	"		50.61			51.20			54.37			57.15		53.33
" loin ..	"		51.27			52.53			55.18			57.18		54.04
" chops ..	"		51.53			52.80			55.12			57.33		54.20

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (b) Delivered. (c) Prices published for this year should not be compared, without inquiry, with those prices or price relatives published for earlier years. (d) Amounts shown for previous years related to rib (with bone).

SECTION I.—continued.

MELBOURNE: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES(a) OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1955.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1955.
Groceries, etc.—		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread(b) ..	2 lb.	14.00	14.00	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	14.63
Flour, plain ..	"	11.15	11.15	11.15	11.15	11.25	11.25	11.05	11.10	11.10	11.10	11.10	11.15	11.14
" self-raising ..	"	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.45	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.10
Tea ..	lb.	89.00	89.00	89.00	89.00	88.60	88.60	73.65	73.65	77.30	85.50	85.50	85.50	84.53
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Rice ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.80	11.70	11.70	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.88
Tapioca, seed ..	"	13.17	13.17	13.17	13.00	12.13	11.88	11.79	12.58	12.75	13.58	13.58	13.58	12.87
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	27.50	27.50	27.50	27.50	27.40	27.50	27.11	26.95	26.94	26.60	26.80	26.80	27.18
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	19.05	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.95	18.95	19.00
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	9.40	9.40	9.25	10.00	10.00	10.33	9.17	9.17	9.17	9.17	9.00	9.00	9.42
Raisins, seeded ..	"	29.50	29.39	29.39	29.39	28.72	28.28	27.44	27.56	27.56	27.61	27.83	27.83	28.38
Currants ..	"	22.43	22.43	22.44	22.25	22.25	22.33	22.33	22.50	22.75	23.13	23.00	24.17	22.66
Apricots, dried ..	"	61.70	60.00	60.67	59.83	59.83	59.83	58.20	55.17	53.42	53.42	58.00	56.75	58.07
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	33.50	33.50	33.40	33.40	33.40	33.40	32.55	32.55	32.65	32.70	33.00	33.40	33.12
Pears, canned ..	"	35.55	35.55	35.55	35.45	35.45	35.45	34.55	34.55	34.55	34.55	34.80	34.80	35.07
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	21.58	27.93	31.43	31.50	31.50	31.29	55.13	46.63	45.94	48.56	58.50	61.88	40.99
Onions, brown ..	lb.	8.60	7.70	7.70	6.90	6.40	6.50	7.90	8.10	8.50	8.50	18.00	14.80	9.13
Soap ..	"	17.97	17.97	18.10	17.97	17.97	17.97	18.04	18.04	18.04	18.04	18.04	18.04	18.02
Kerosene ..	quart	8.27	8.26	8.26	8.26	8.28	8.29	8.24	8.21	8.21	8.21	8.21	8.21	8.24
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	49.30	49.30	49.30	49.30	49.30	49.30	48.80	53.30	53.30	53.30	53.30	53.30	50.93
Cheese, mild ..	"	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	35.10	35.10	35.70	36.30	36.30	34.13
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	60.90	64.00	67.80	67.80	67.90	74.50	74.60	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	65.00	66.88
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	63.71	63.71	63.71	66.33	68.75	72.58	74.42	74.25	77.17	77.67	78.08	78.08	71.54
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	22.40	22.40	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.30	22.30	22.30	22.40	22.40	22.40	22.41
" fresh, loose(b)(c)	quart	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00
" " in bottles (b)(c)	"	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00
Meat—														
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	March Quarter, 1955.			June Quarter, 1955.			September Quarter, 1955.			December Quarter, 1955.			40.34
" rib (without bone) (d) ..	"	38.83			39.60			41.63			41.29			
" steak, rump ..	"	38.67			38.90			40.97			40.53			39.77
" chuck ..	"	51.30			52.40			56.53			57.60			54.46
" sausages ..	"	32.77			32.83			35.00			34.93			33.88
Beef (corned) silver-side ..	"	19.56			19.56			20.60			21.10			20.21
" brisket ..	"	38.08			38.37			40.57			41.20			39.56
Mutton, leg ..	"	28.00			28.03			30.20			30.20			29.11
" forequarter ..	"	24.43			25.19			26.86			26.67			25.79
" loin ..	"	15.29			16.05			17.76			16.78			16.47
" chops, loin ..	"	22.24			21.29			24.96			26.94			23.86
" leg ..	"	23.43			23.48			27.14			26.57			25.16
Pork, leg ..	"	26.57			26.76			28.52			28.24			27.52
" loin ..	"	47.18			49.04			56.74			58.89			52.96
" chops ..	"	48.67			50.26			57.74			59.44			54.03
" ..	"	50.00			51.23			57.67			59.27			54.54

APPENDIX.

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (b) Delivered. (c) Prices published for this year should not be compared, without inquiry, with those prices or price relatives published for earlier years. (d) Amounts shown for previous years related to rib (with bone).

SECTION I.—continued.

BRISBANE: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES(a) OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1955.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1955.
Groceries, etc.—	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bread(b) ..	2 lb.	13.00	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.46
Flour, plain ..	"	9.00	9.20	9.35	9.40	9.40	9.40	9.45	9.45	9.45	9.40	9.40	9.35	9.35
" self-raising ..	"	17.10	17.70	17.70	17.60	17.60	17.60	17.45	17.45	17.55	17.55	17.55	17.85	17.56
Tea ..	lb.	86.70	86.70	86.70	86.70	86.70	86.70	71.90	71.90	71.90	82.60	82.60	82.60	81.98
Sugar ..	"	8.95	8.95	8.95	8.95	8.95	8.95	8.93	8.95	8.95	8.95	8.98	8.93	8.95
Rice ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Tapioca, seed ..	"	13.75	13.50	13.25	13.25	13.15	13.00	13.40	13.30	12.85	12.20	12.20	12.30	13.01
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	27.60	27.30	27.25	27.25	27.25	27.10	26.95	26.95	26.95	26.95	26.65	26.75	27.08
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	17.35	17.35	17.35	17.35	17.35	17.35	17.35	17.35	17.35	17.35	17.40	17.45	17.36
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	10.00	10.17	10.00	10.08	10.75	10.75	11.50	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.17	11.17	10.78
Raisins, seeded ..	"	26.00	25.95	26.10	26.10	26.00	26.15	25.95	26.00	25.85	26.00	26.30	26.40	26.07
Currants ..	"	21.75	21.75	21.75	21.75	22.25	22.25	22.00	22.00	22.25	21.00	22.00	22.00	21.90
Apricots, dried ..	"	55.17	54.29	54.80	54.33	53.29	54.00	53.43	53.17	53.39	53.17	53.33	53.33	53.81
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	36.65	36.40	36.40	36.40	36.35	36.85	36.65	36.60	36.60	36.60	36.65	37.05	36.60
Pears, canned ..	"	38.15	38.05	38.15	38.15	38.15	38.25	38.05	38.35	38.35	38.35	38.40	38.50	38.24
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	33.95	46.90	52.60	51.45	48.65	49.00	54.95	58.95	64.35	49.70	39.40	50.30	50.02
Onions, brown ..	lb.	7.20	8.00	8.00	7.30	7.25	8.00	8.90	8.95	8.95	8.75	12.75	10.25	8.56
Soap ..	"	18.13	18.13	18.13	18.13	18.13	18.13	17.96	17.96	17.96	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.06
Kerosene ..	quart	8.34	8.34	8.34	8.34	8.34	8.34	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.29	8.32	8.35	8.33
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	49.10	49.10	49.10	49.10	49.10	49.10	48.90	52.45	52.45	52.25	52.35	52.40	50.45
Cheese, mild ..	"	31.90	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	33.80	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	32.81
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	57.90	60.40	60.40	63.70	67.60	67.80	67.40	58.20	53.50	52.10	54.40	60.90	60.36
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	56.90	55.65	55.70	55.65	55.95	56.85	57.60	65.00	64.60	64.95	64.60	65.35	59.90
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	23.35	23.30	23.30	23.30	23.30	23.30	23.15	23.10	23.15	23.15	23.15	23.15	23.23
" fresh, loose(b)(c)	quart	15.00	15.00	15.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.50
" " in bottles (b)(c)	"	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.50
Meat—		March Quarter, 1955.			June Quarter, 1955.			September Quarter, 1955.			December Quarter, 1955.			
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	34.12			32.24			31.78			31.92			32.52
" rib (without bone)(d) ..	"	28.97			26.66			26.26			26.37			27.07
" steak, rump ..	"	40.57			39.67			39.44			39.54			39.81
" chuck ..	"	22.83			20.26			19.74			19.82			20.66
" sausages ..	"	18.87			18.80			18.83			18.80			18.83
Beef (corned) silver-side ..	"	30.38			28.92			28.44			28.54			29.07
" brisket ..	"	24.52			21.51			20.74			20.82			21.90
Mutton, leg ..	"	19.98			21.51			22.32			22.29			21.53
" forequarter ..	"	14.79			13.52			13.04			13.01			13.59
" loin ..	"	18.28			19.51			20.12			19.80			19.43
" chops, loin ..	"	20.98			21.85			22.32			22.30			21.86
" leg ..	"	19.98			21.51			22.32			22.30			21.53
Pork, leg ..	"	43.10			42.07			45.50			47.17			44.46
" loin ..	"	41.03			41.03			44.67			46.47			43.30
" chops ..	"	41.03			41.07			44.67			46.17			43.24

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (b) Delivered. (c) Prices published for this year should not be compared, without inquiry, with those prices or price relatives published for earlier years. (d) Amounts shown for previous years related to rib (with bone).

ADELAIDE: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES^(a) OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1955.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1955.
Groceries, etc.—		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bread ^(b) ..	2 lb.	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.00	13.33
Flour, plain ..	"	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.50	9.96
" self-raising ..	"	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	15.95	16.41
Tea ..	lb.	89.00	89.00	89.00	89.00	89.00	89.00	74.00	74.00	74.00	84.00	84.00	84.00	84.00
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Rice ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Tapioca, seed ..	"	13.25	13.25	13.25	12.95	13.05	13.05	13.05	12.70	12.56	12.56	12.56	12.50	12.89
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	27.25	27.25	27.25	27.25	27.25	27.25	27.15	27.15	27.15	27.15	27.30	27.45	27.24
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	9.25	9.25	10.33	10.33	10.33	10.33	10.33	10.33	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.29
Raisins, seeded ..	"	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50
Currants ..	"	22.95	22.95	22.95	23.20	23.25	23.30	23.50	23.65	23.70	24.20	24.25	24.38	23.52
Apricots, dried ..	"	58.10	58.10	57.45	56.95	56.20	55.50	55.61	54.22	54.22	54.22	52.50	53.00	55.51
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	36.75	36.75	36.75	37.15	37.95	37.90	37.90	38.00	37.95	38.10	38.05	38.05	37.61
Pears, canned ..	"	37.45	37.45	37.45	37.75	37.75	37.75	37.75	37.85	38.00	38.10	38.20	38.20	37.81
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	28.88	28.44	28.44	31.06	29.31	33.25	40.69	43.69	46.56	47.63	59.94	53.38	39.27
Onions, brown ..	lb.	7.30	7.30	7.30	7.60	7.60	7.50	9.33	9.83	10.33	11.25	18.00	12.67	9.67
Soap ..	"	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33
Kerosene ..	quart	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.75	7.76	7.76	7.77
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	53.00	53.00	53.00	53.00	53.00	50.96
Cheese, mild ..	"	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	33.90	33.90	33.90	34.06	34.06	33.11
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	46.65	59.70	63.65	64.80	64.80	66.70	66.70	57.80	55.65	48.94	46.80	48.80	57.58
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	65.40	65.40	65.35	65.45	65.45	65.45	65.45	65.45	67.55	67.75	67.75	67.75	66.18
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35
" fresh, loose ^{(b)(c)} ..	quart	15.50	15.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.33
" " in bottles ^{(b)(c)} ..	"	17.00	17.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	17.83
Meat—		March Quarter, 1955.			June Quarter, 1955.			September Quarter, 1955.			December Quarter, 1955.			
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	31.87			31.90			31.90			30.27			31.49
" rib (without bone) ^(d) ..	"	35.20			35.20			35.30			33.53			34.81
" steak, rump ..	"	49.97			50.30			50.30			49.00			49.89
" chuck ..	"	30.07			30.20			30.20			28.93			29.85
" sausages ..	"	17.96			18.00			18.00			17.52			17.87
Beef (corned) silver-side ..	"	35.73			36.00			35.80			34.87			35.60
" brisket ..	"	29.53			29.60			29.60			28.93			29.42
Mutton, leg ..	"	22.63			24.31			24.47			24.04			23.86
" forequarter ..	"	11.87			12.04			12.23			12.67			12.20
" loin ..	"	21.97			22.24			22.70			23.02			22.48
" chops, loin ..	"	22.67			22.83			23.17			23.29			22.99
" leg ..	"	23.37			23.56			23.43			23.67			23.51
Pork, leg ..	"	49.17			49.70			49.28			52.43			50.15
" loin ..	"	49.30			49.70			49.48			52.40			50.22
" chops ..	"	49.97			50.13			49.63			52.47			50.55

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (b) Delivered. (c) Prices published for this year should not be compared, without inquiry, with those prices or price relatives published for earlier years. (d) Amounts shown for previous years related to rib (with bone).

SECTION I.—continued.

PERTH: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES^(a) OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1955.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1955.
Groceries, etc.—		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bread ^(b) ..	2 lb.	14.00	14.00	14.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.58
Flour, plain ..	"	11.90	13.10	13.10	13.50	13.60	13.60	13.60	13.60	13.50	13.60	13.50	13.60	13.35
" self-raising ..	"	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.55	19.65	19.65	19.65	19.65	19.65	19.49
Tea ..	1 lb.	92.85	92.85	92.85	92.85	91.60	91.60	76.20	76.20	76.80	85.60	86.80	86.80	86.92
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Rice ..	"	11.85	11.75	11.70	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.70	11.65	11.60	11.65	11.65	11.71
Tapioca, seed ..	"	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.20	15.20	15.60	15.60	15.13
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	31.85	31.85	31.70	31.85	31.80	31.50	31.05	31.06	32.13	31.80	31.80	31.80	31.68
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	19.85	19.85	19.85	19.85	19.85	19.95	19.85	19.85	19.95	19.85	19.85	19.85	19.87
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	9.29	9.43	10.07	12.07	11.86	11.71	11.79	11.79	11.36	11.14	11.14	11.14	11.12
Raisins, seeded ..	"	30.33	30.17	30.33	30.25	30.25	29.75	29.75	30.10	30.33	29.75	29.83	29.70	30.05
Currants ..	"	24.11	24.20	24.20	24.50	24.20	24.05	24.05	23.95	24.15	24.25	23.90	24.00	24.13
Apricots, dried ..	"	63.33	63.33	63.33	63.67	62.86	60.00	60.38	60.38	60.38	60.38	59.00	60.50	61.46
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	39.65	39.60	39.20	38.50	39.55	39.50	39.25	39.25	39.15	39.70	39.70	39.55	39.38
Pears, dried ..	"	40.80	40.80	40.40	39.70	40.85	40.75	40.60	40.60	40.40	41.00	41.00	40.50	40.62
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	27.75	27.75	27.75	36.88	36.88	36.88	36.88	36.88	36.88	36.88	31.00	31.00	33.62
Onions, brown ..	lb.	7.69	7.75	7.75	7.94	7.63	7.88	9.44	10.44	10.25	10.31	10.44	10.63	9.01
Soap ..	"	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30
Kerosene ..	quart	13.03	13.03	13.03	13.03	13.03	13.03	13.03	13.03	13.03	13.03	13.05	13.05	13.03
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	49.10	48.50	48.50	48.20	48.20	48.20	48.30	52.60	52.90	52.90	52.90	52.90	50.27
Cheese, mild ..	"	38.13	38.70	38.33	38.29	38.10	37.70	38.10	40.86	41.64	41.64	41.64	41.64	39.56
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	57.20	61.40	65.70	65.70	65.70	68.70	72.80	62.40	55.20	55.10	55.00	57.70	61.88
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	65.88	65.88	65.88	65.88	65.63	65.33	64.89	64.89	64.89	65.11	66.17	67.50	65.66
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	23.10	23.10	23.10	23.10	22.85	23.10	23.10	23.10	22.80	22.45	22.35	22.55	22.89
" fresh, loose ^{(b)(c)} ..	quart	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00
" " in bottles ..	"	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00
Meat—														
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	March Quarter, 1955.			June Quarter, 1955.			September Quarter, 1955			December Quarter, 1955.			
" rib (without bone) ^(d) ..	"	38.52			39.40			39.10			39.07			39.02
" steak, rump ..	"	39.41			40.37			39.78			40.04			39.90
" " chuck ..	"	53.97			55.37			55.13			55.13			54.90
" sausages ..	"	35.17			35.40			34.93			35.27			35.19
" (corned) silver-side ..	"	22.13			21.98			21.47			21.65			21.81
" " brisket ..	"	38.33			38.83			37.43			37.83			38.11
Mutton, leg ..	"	30.13			30.43			29.43			29.57			29.89
" " forequarter ..	"	28.33			29.70			28.37			28.00			28.60
" " loin ..	"	17.60			18.30			17.07			17.33			17.58
" " chops, loin ..	"	27.87			29.10			27.90			27.83			28.18
" " leg ..	"	27.87			29.10			27.97			27.83			28.19
Pork, leg ..	"	48.90			50.01			50.33			53.89			50.78
" " loin ..	"	48.77			49.79			50.43			53.89			50.72
" " chops ..	"	48.77			49.79			50.50			53.89			50.74

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (b) Delivered. (c) Prices published for this year should not be compared, without inquiry, with those prices or price relatives published for earlier years. (d) Amounts shown for previous years related to rib (with bone).

SECTION I.—continued.

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HOBART: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES^(a) OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1955.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1955.
Groceries, etc.—		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bread ^(b) ..	2 lb.	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.38
Flour, plain ..	"	10.60	10.60	10.60	10.60	10.60	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.36
" self-raising ..	"	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.00	19.05	19.05	19.07
Tea ..	lb.	91.00	91.00	91.00	91.00	91.00	91.00	76.50	76.40	85.25	90.20	90.50	90.45	87.94
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Rice ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Tapioca, seed ..	"	15.90	16.65	14.30	13.55	13.90	15.39	15.50	17.00	16.95	17.25	17.25	17.25	15.91
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	28.25	28.25	28.25	28.25	28.15	28.15	28.10	28.10	28.10	28.10	28.10	28.10	28.16
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	20.15	20.15	20.10	20.15	20.15	20.25	20.25	20.85	20.85	20.95	20.95	20.95	20.48
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	10.10	9.50	9.50	9.75	11.20	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.05
Raisins, seeded ..	"	31.50	30.95	31.00	31.00	30.40	30.45	30.35	30.45	30.65	30.75	31.05	31.05	30.80
Currants ..	"	25.58	25.50	25.50	25.50	25.50	26.71	26.86	26.57	26.57	26.71	27.00	27.00	26.26
Apricots, dried ..	"	58.90	58.90	58.80	58.80	58.20	57.00	58.50	58.29	58.29	58.29	58.00	58.00	58.32
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	38.65	38.65	38.75	38.75	38.80	39.05	39.05	39.05	39.00	39.15	39.25	39.25	38.95
Pears, canned ..	"	42.10	42.10	42.10	42.10	42.90	42.90	43.80	43.80	43.75	43.75	44.15	44.15	43.13
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	48.13	43.00	37.50	45.00	44.00	45.00	48.00	53.00	50.50	49.50	55.00	75.00	49.47
Onions, brown ..	lb.	12.43	9.75	9.75	9.63	9.38	9.63	9.88	11.13	11.50	12.86	18.00	18.57	11.88
Soap ..	"	18.33	18.33	18.26	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.26	18.33	18.33	18.32
Kerosene ..	quart	13.55	13.04	13.16	13.16	13.16	13.16	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.39	13.39	13.39	13.28
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	54.85	54.95	54.90	54.95	54.95	52.05
Cheese, mild ..	"	32.91	33.32	33.72	34.38	34.49	34.49	34.49	37.91	38.20	38.08	38.61	38.50	35.76
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	66.50	66.50	71.50	71.50	71.50	74.00	71.50	71.50	71.50	54.50	63.78	66.50	66.98
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	67.80	64.70	65.10	65.10	65.30	67.60	70.20	70.60	70.90	73.00	73.00	72.60	68.83
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz tin	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	18.76
" fresh, loose ^{(b)(c)}	quart	16.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.09	18.76
" " in bottles ^{(b)(c)} ..	"	17.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	19.75
Meat—		March Quarter, 1955.			June Quarter, 1955.			September Quarter, 1955.			December Quarter, 1955.			40.40
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	39.81			40.00			40.63			41.17			40.40
" rib (without bone) ^(d) ..	"	39.15			39.20			39.70			40.60			39.66
" steak, rump ..	"	55.96			56.17			56.87			58.33			56.83
" chuck ..	"	35.07			34.83			35.00			35.80			35.18
" sausages ..	"	23.15			22.80			22.87			23.20			23.01
" (corned) silver-side brisket ..	"	40.04			40.30			40.57			42.03			40.74
" Mutton, leg ..	"	31.01			30.70			30.93			31.23			30.97
" forequarter ..	"	27.16			27.53			28.89			30.59			28.54
" loin ..	"	13.70			14.76			16.95			17.17			15.65
" chops, loin ..	"	19.62			21.06			22.42			24.13			21.81
" leg ..	"	20.26			21.47			23.87			25.04			22.66
Pork, leg ..	"	24.47			25.54			27.35			26.05			25.85
" loin ..	"	48.71			47.60			49.13			55.30			50.19
" chops ..	"	48.63			47.63			49.50			55.70			50.37
" " ..	"	48.98			48.30			49.70			56.00			50.75

APPENDIX.

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (b) Delivered. (c) Prices published for this year should not be compared, without inquiry, with those prices or price relatives published for earlier years. (d) Amounts shown for previous years related to rib (with bone).

SECTION I.—continued.

SYDNEY: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES^(a) OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1956.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1956.
Groceries, etc.—		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bread ^(b) ..	2 lb.	13.80	13.80	13.80	13.80	13.80	13.80	14.80	14.80	14.56	14.56	14.56	15.30	14.34
Flour, plain ..	"	13.19	13.36	13.36	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.75	14.56	14.56	14.56	14.69	13.92	
" self-raising ..	"	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.45	20.85	20.85	20.85	20.35	20.35	20.31
Tea ..	lb.	84.65	84.65	83.65	82.85	82.85	82.85	80.85	80.50	80.50	80.40	79.70	80.10	81.96
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.67
Rice ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Tapioca, seed ..	"	13.00	13.75	13.80	13.95	14.05	15.25	15.65	19.28	21.28	22.72	24.70	25.50	17.74
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	30.25	30.60	30.90	30.90	30.90	30.90	30.90	31.65	32.20	32.85	34.86	34.38	31.77
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	19.05	19.05	19.05	19.05	19.40	20.45	20.45	20.45	20.65	20.65	20.65	20.65	19.96
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	11.00	11.00	11.00	10.67	10.08	10.08	10.07	10.07	10.07	10.17	10.10	10.20	10.38
Raisins, seeded ..	"	30.60	30.30	30.30	30.30	30.30	30.30	30.30	30.30	30.30	30.30	31.00	31.00	30.44
Currants ..	"	25.50	25.50	25.50	25.40	25.40	25.40	25.40	25.40	25.40	25.38	25.75	25.75	25.48
Apricots, dried ..	"	63.00	63.00	63.00	63.00	63.00	63.00	63.30	64.50	64.13	64.13	65.50	65.25	63.73
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	38.65	40.60	43.55	43.55	43.55	43.55	43.55	43.55	43.55	43.55	43.55	43.55	43.37
Pears, canned ..	"	41.70	43.20	66.90	77.88	77.45	108.88	114.80	119.00	148.40	135.00	64.35	42.85	90.43
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	64.00	65.60	10.20	10.20	10.50	11.40	16.10	17.20	20.50	15.60	10.80	9.00	12.84
Onions, brown ..	lb.	11.90	10.70	10.20	18.20	18.20	18.20	18.20	18.20	18.20	18.20	18.20	18.20	18.20
Soap ..	"	18.20	18.20	18.20	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.65	8.67	8.67	8.67	8.67	8.42
Kerosene ..	quart	8.25	8.25	8.25										
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	53.10	53.10	53.10	53.10	53.10	53.10	54.85	54.70	54.70	54.35	54.15	54.15	53.79
Cheese, mild ..	"	36.69	36.69	37.13	37.13	37.13	37.38	38.50	38.75	38.75	39.00	39.00	39.88	38.00
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	69.00	69.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	66.00	66.00	66.00	72.00	71.50
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	77.33	76.67	76.67	78.17	80.28	80.61	84.17	86.50	87.94	88.17	88.17	88.63	82.78
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	23.30	23.30	23.30	23.30	23.30	23.30	24.30	24.30	24.30	24.30	23.60	23.60	23.68
" fresh, loose ^(b) ..	quart	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" " in bottles ..	"	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
" " ^(b) ..	"													
Meat—		March Quarter, 1956.			June Quarter, 1956.			September Quarter, 1956.			December Quarter, 1956.			45.30
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	44.10			45.55			46.00			45.53			
" rib (without ..	"	34.57			35.52			35.93			35.40			35.36
" bone) ..	"	56.83			59.17			59.53			59.20			58.68
" steak, rump ..	"	29.95			30.57			30.70			30.07			30.32
" chuck ..	"	20.67			21.25			22.80			23.13			21.96
" sausages ..	"													
" (corned) silver- ..	"	36.52			35.85			35.00			35.53			35.73
" side ..	"	25.18			25.43			24.30			25.13			25.01
" brisket ..	"	24.12			26.27			27.00			26.50			25.97
Mutton, leg ..	"	15.93			17.78			19.45			18.15			17.83
" forequarter ..	"	24.83			27.57			29.37			27.81			27.40
" loin ..	"	25.15			27.65			29.53			28.07			27.60
" chops, loin ..	"	26.90			29.20			31.20			30.00			29.33
" " leg ..	"	57.25			58.34			61.57			63.26			60.11
Pork, leg ..	"	57.25			58.76			62.07			62.27			60.09
" loin ..	"	56.78			58.33			62.27			62.33			59.93
" chops ..	"													

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

(b) Delivered.

SECTION I.—continued.

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MELBOURNE: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES^(a) OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1956.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1956.
Groceries, etc.—		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bread ^(b) ..	2 lb.	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.17
Flour, plain ..	"	11.05	11.05	11.05	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.22	11.30	11.30	11.45	11.12
" self-raising ..	"	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	19.40	19.40	19.45	19.95	19.15
Tea ..	lb.	85.35	85.30	83.25	83.25	83.25	83.25	81.35	81.35	81.35	81.10	81.10	81.10	82.58
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.30	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.61
Rice ..	"	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.79
Tapioca, seed ..	"	13.75	13.83	13.83	14.50	14.79	14.79	14.93	14.93	18.13	20.56	21.86	24.29	16.68
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	27.15	27.15	27.20	27.20	27.20	27.20	27.20	27.20	27.20	27.00	27.00	27.35	27.17
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	18.95	20.30	20.60	20.60	20.60	20.50	20.50	20.50	19.86
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	9.00	9.00	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.50	8.50	9.13	9.13	9.25	8.89
Raisins, seeded ..	"	27.78	27.78	27.78	27.50	27.50	27.50	27.50	27.50	27.50	28.31	28.31	28.29	27.77
Currants ..	"	24.17	24.25	24.25	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.63	24.50	24.50	23.86
Apricots, dried ..	"	56.33	56.33	56.29	57.25	57.25	57.25	57.50	57.50	57.50	57.71	57.71	57.71	57.19
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	33.45	34.06	34.50	34.78	35.28	35.75	35.75	35.75	35.90	35.80	35.80	35.75	35.21
Pears, canned ..	"	34.80	35.17	35.90	36.35	37.30	37.60	37.60	37.60	37.65	37.40	37.40	37.50	36.86
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	61.25	58.56	57.31	73.06	70.88	101.94	106.63	126.22	155.53	154.46	107.64	35.14	92.39
Onions, brown ..	lb.	12.75	12.00	8.00	8.10	8.20	9.70	14.40	16.25	23.67	17.75	17.00	11.50	13.28
Soap ..	"	18.04	18.04	18.04	18.04	18.04	18.04	18.04	18.04	18.04	18.11	18.26	18.26	18.08
Kerosene ..	quart	8.24	8.22	8.21	8.22	8.22	8.22	8.22	8.60	8.60	8.63	8.63	8.63	8.39
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	53.30	53.30	53.30	53.30	53.15	53.10	54.70	54.85	54.85	54.60	54.60	54.60	53.97
Cheese, mild ..	"	36.63	36.63	36.63	37.50	37.50	37.50	39.00	39.00	39.17	39.50	39.50	39.50	38.17
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	68.00	68.00	68.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	65.00	65.00	64.80	64.80	64.80	69.03
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	78.08	79.25	79.92	79.92	83.17	84.00	84.00	85.33	85.33	86.33	86.33	86.33	83.17
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	22.40	22.40	22.40	22.40	22.40	22.30	22.80	23.00	23.15	22.85	22.85	22.85	22.65
" fresh, loose ^(b) ..	quart	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
" " in bottles ..	"	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00
" " ^(b) ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Meat—														
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	March Quarter, 1956.			June Quarter, 1956.			September Quarter, 1956.			December Quarter, 1956.			41.97
" rib (without bone) ..	"	41.29			42.50			42.30			41.80			
" steak, rump ..	"	41.13			41.93			41.73			41.27			41.52
" " chuck ..	"	57.80			60.67			59.97			60.10			59.64
" sausages ..	"	34.90			35.43			35.43			34.83			35.15
" (corned) silver-side ..	"	21.52			23.29			24.33			24.79			23.48
" " brisket ..	"	41.20			41.10			40.83			40.93			41.02
Mutton, leg ..	"	29.83			29.27			29.30			28.83			29.31
" " forequarter ..	"	26.29			29.85			28.81			28.09			28.26
" " loin ..	"	16.45			19.50			18.61			18.61			18.29
" " chops, loin ..	"	26.45			27.43			27.53			27.10			27.13
" " " leg ..	"	26.24			29.19			28.53			27.76			27.93
Pork, leg ..	"	28.19			30.53			30.05			29.90			29.67
" " loin ..	"	60.92			61.38			63.52			64.96			62.70
" " chops ..	"	61.52			62.26			64.29			66.52			63.65
" " " ..	"	60.87			61.50			63.47			66.60			63.11

^(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.^(b) Delivered.

SECTION I.—continued.

BRISBANE: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES^(a) OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1956.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1956.
Groceries, etc.—		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bread(b) ..	2 lb.	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	13.71
Flour, plain ..	"	9.40	9.40	9.45	9.45	9.45	9.45	9.45	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.46
" self-raising ..	"	17.55	17.55	17.55	17.55	17.55	17.55	17.55	17.55	17.55	17.55	17.55	17.55	17.58
Tea ..	lb.	82.60	82.60	79.85	79.85	79.85	79.85	77.85	77.90	77.80	77.80	77.80	77.80	79.30
Sugar ..	"	8.95	8.95	8.95	8.95	8.95	9.97	9.97	9.97	9.97	9.97	9.97	9.97	9.54
Rice ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Tapioca, seed ..	"	12.30	12.25	12.55	12.45	12.55	12.55	12.45	13.00	15.17	16.00	16.00	16.00	13.61
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	26.90	26.90	26.90	27.35	27.40	27.40	27.75	27.85	27.95	28.15	28.50	28.50	27.63
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	17.45	17.45	17.45	17.45	17.45	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.35
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	11.17	11.17	11.17	11.17	10.88	10.88	10.88	10.88	10.88	10.88	10.88	10.88	10.98
Raisins, seeded ..	"	26.05	26.05	25.90	26.05	26.05	26.05	26.05	26.05	26.30	26.30	26.30	26.30	26.12
Currants ..	"	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
Apricots, dried ..	"	51.50	51.50	55.00	55.67	56.69	56.69	56.50	56.50	56.50	58.88	58.88	58.88	56.10
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	37.00	37.00	37.35	38.00	38.30	38.40	38.55	38.55	38.55	38.55	38.60	38.65	38.13
Pears, canned ..	"	38.50	38.50	38.90	39.80	40.05	40.15	40.15	40.30	40.30	40.30	40.30	40.30	39.80
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	64.10	77.25	71.30	75.90	73.40	90.80	102.20	112.75	132.45	138.15	51.80	37.10	85.60
Onions, brown ..	lb.	11.10	10.70	9.85	9.50	9.40	10.25	15.35	16.05	16.55	13.65	9.25	7.65	11.61
Soap ..	"	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00
Kerosene ..	quart	8.37	8.37	8.37	8.37	8.37	8.37	8.37	8.37	8.37	8.37	8.37	8.37	8.37
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	52.40	52.40	52.40	52.40	52.40	52.40	54.10	54.10	54.10	54.10	54.10	54.10	53.25
Cheese, mild ..	"	33.80	33.80	33.80	33.80	34.00	34.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	34.43
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	60.90	64.10	67.40	67.20	67.60	67.40	58.60	58.60	58.50	57.78	58.20	58.20	62.04
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	65.60	67.05	67.60	68.10	71.25	72.40	74.00	76.06	77.56	77.56	77.81	78.06	72.75
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	23.15	23.15	23.15	23.20	23.20	23.20	23.75	24.20	24.20	24.20	24.05	24.05	23.63
" fresh, loose(b) ..	quart	15.00	15.00	15.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	15.00	15.00	16.00	15.58
" " in bottles (b) ..	"	16.00	16.00	16.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	16.00	16.00	17.00	16.58
Meat—		March Quarter, 1956.			June Quarter, 1956.			September Quarter, 1956.			December Quarter, 1956.			
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	32.14			32.22			31.84			31.89			32.02
" rib (without bone) ..	"	26.55			26.61			26.30			26.34			26.45
" steak, rump ..	"	39.74			39.78			39.50			39.49			39.63
" " chuck ..	"	19.96			20.00			19.78			19.79			19.88
" sausages ..	"	18.80			18.80			18.80			18.80			18.80
" (corned) silver-side ..	"	28.74			28.78			28.50			28.49			28.63
" brisket ..	"	20.96			21.00			20.78			20.76			20.88
Mutton, leg ..	"	22.34			22.17			22.55			22.64			22.43
" forequarter ..	"	12.98			12.77			13.11			13.29			13.04
" loin ..	"	19.84			19.67			20.09			20.81			20.10
" chops, loin ..	"	22.34			22.17			22.55			22.64			22.43
" leg ..	"	22.34			22.17			22.55			22.64			22.43
Pork, leg ..	"	50.27			50.23			54.67			55.33			52.63
" loin ..	"	49.10			48.93			53.57			54.03			51.41
" chops ..	"	49.07			48.97			53.57			54.07			51.42

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

(b) Delivered.

SECTION I.—continued.

ADELAIDE: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES(a) OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1956.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1956.
Groceries, etc.—		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bread(b) ..	2 lb.	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00
Flour, plain ..	"	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.55	9.55	9.55	9.55	9.55	9.50	9.50	9.50	9.52
" self-raising ..	"	15.95	15.95	15.95	16.00	15.90	15.90	15.90	15.90	15.85	15.85	15.95	16.05	15.93
Tea ..	lb.	84.00	84.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	78.00	78.00	78.00	78.00	78.00	78.00	79.67
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.67
Rice ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Tapioca, seed ..	"	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.55	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50	12.50
Jam, plum ..	14 lb.	27.45	27.45	27.75	28.00	28.33	28.83	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	28.48
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	20.10	20.10	20.10	20.10	20.10	20.05	20.05	19.43
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	10.75	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.15
Raisins, seeded ..	"	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50
Currants ..	"	24.40	24.40	24.38	24.44	24.70	24.70	24.70	24.70	24.70	24.60	24.60	24.60	24.58
Apricots, dried ..	"	53.00	52.50	57.38	58.50	58.50	58.50	58.50	58.50	58.50	58.50	58.50	58.50	57.45
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	38.55	38.55	39.25	39.40	39.55	39.75	40.40	40.40	40.40	40.40	40.40	40.40	39.79
Pears, canned ..	"	38.65	38.65	38.95	39.30	39.80	40.00	40.50	40.50	40.50	40.80	40.80	40.80	39.94
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	49.75	48.88	38.81	56.31	59.50	77.00	84.88	98.44	147.88	146.00	83.13	36.17	77.23
Onions, brown ..	lb.	12.00	10.40	9.10	9.17	9.20	10.40	11.60	15.67	25.50	21.75	19.00	8.40	13.52
Soap ..	"	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33
Kerosene ..	quart	7.76	7.76	7.76	7.76	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	8.23	8.24	7.83
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	53.00	53.00	53.00	53.00	53.00	53.00	54.50	54.50	54.50	54.50	54.50	54.50	53.75
Cheese, mild ..	"	34.06	34.06	34.06	34.06	34.06	34.06	35.17	35.11	35.11	35.11	35.11	35.11	34.59
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	52.15	58.45	61.50	66.65	66.70	66.75	66.75	60.75	56.80	47.65	47.70	49.70	58.46
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	67.75	67.75	67.85	71.15	73.90	73.90	73.90	76.70	75.00	74.90	75.00	75.00	72.73
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.50	23.35	23.85	23.85	23.85	23.49
" fresh, loose(b) ..	quart	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50	16.50
" " in bottles (b) ..	"	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00
Meat—		March Quarter, 1956.			June Quarter, 1956.			September Quarter, 1956.			December Quarter, 1956.			
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	29.40			31.60			31.60			30.43			30.76
" rib (without bone) ..	"	32.40			34.60			34.60			33.17			33.69
" steak, rump ..	"	48.10			51.40			51.40			50.67			50.39
" " chuck ..	"	27.27			30.10			30.00			28.77			29.04
" sausages ..	"	16.88			18.00			18.00			17.33			17.55
" (corned) silver-side ..	"	34.93			36.20			36.20			35.23			35.64
" brisket ..	"	28.27			29.90			29.90			28.93			29.25
Mutton, leg ..	"	24.48			25.43			25.23			25.23			25.09
" forequarter ..	"	13.29			14.35			14.28			14.25			14.04
" loin ..	"	23.59			24.07			23.83			23.80			23.82
" chops, loin ..	"	24.30			25.97			25.63			24.60			25.13
" " leg ..	"	24.89			26.03			26.03			25.20			25.54
Pork, leg ..	"	57.71			60.17			59.57			59.00			59.11
" loin ..	"	57.91			60.47			59.73			59.00			59.28
" chops ..	"	58.22			60.70			59.93			59.00			59.46

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

(b) Delivered.

SECTION I.—continued.

PERTH: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES(a) OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1956.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1956.
Groceries, etc.—		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread(b) ..	2 lb.	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	14.50	15.00	15.00	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	14.92
Flour, plain ..	"	13.70	13.70	13.70	13.70	13.70	13.70	13.70	13.70	13.70	13.80	13.80	13.80	13.73
" self-raising ..	"	19.55	19.40	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.25	19.20	19.40	19.50	19.50	19.60	19.35
Tea ..	lb.	86.80	86.20	84.60	84.60	84.40	84.40	82.30	82.30	82.30	82.30	82.30	82.30	83.78
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.40	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.62
Rice ..	"	11.65	11.65	11.65	11.50	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.95	12.05	11.75
Tapioca, seed ..	"	15.33	15.50	15.75	15.75	15.75	17.00	17.50	18.00	18.00	23.17	26.75	26.75	18.77
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	31.80	31.90	31.90	31.90	32.10	33.35	34.10	34.80	34.60	34.40	34.45	34.45	33.31
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	19.85	19.85	19.85	19.85	19.85	21.45	21.60	21.65	21.50	21.50	21.50	21.60	20.84
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	11.14	11.14	10.79	10.79	9.43	9.86	9.71	9.07	9.14	9.29	9.50	9.79	9.97
Raisins, seeded ..	"	30.30	30.30	30.30	30.25	30.20	30.20	30.17	30.08	30.00	30.08	30.10	30.70	30.22
Currants ..	"	23.25	23.45	23.50	23.50	24.45	24.40	24.40	24.50	24.50	24.50	24.55	24.55	24.13
Apricots, dried ..	"	61.50	61.60	60.50	61.00	60.57	60.29	60.29	60.80	60.80	61.00	61.50	61.50	60.95
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	39.80	39.85	39.85	39.75	39.90	39.90	40.30	41.35	41.75	42.00	42.00	42.50	40.75
Pears, canned ..	"	39.85	40.00	42.06	41.67	41.80	41.80	41.80	41.95	42.20	42.45	42.45	42.65	41.72
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	31.00	31.00	31.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	43.13	44.00	44.00	37.18
Onions, brown ..	lb.	8.13	8.25	8.00	8.81	9.31	10.00	13.94	19.86	26.17	13.40	10.43	10.00	12.19
Soap ..	"	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.26	19.26	19.26	19.26	19.26	19.26	19.26	19.26	19.27
Kerosene ..	quart	13.05	13.05	13.05	13.05	13.05	13.05	13.05	13.17	13.36	13.40	13.47	13.48	13.19
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	52.90	52.90	52.90	52.90	52.90	52.90	54.70	54.70	54.70	54.70	54.70	54.70	53.80
Cheese, mild ..	"	42.00	42.25	42.25	42.50	42.50	42.25	44.00	44.64	44.67	44.67	44.67	44.67	43.42
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	60.00	63.90	66.90	66.90	66.90	66.90	66.90	60.00	59.00	58.67	58.80	58.80	62.81
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	67.50	67.39	71.67	71.78	75.90	77.14	77.14	77.14	81.43	81.43	81.43	81.43	75.95
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	22.45	22.35	22.25	22.55	22.55	22.40	22.85	23.30	23.40	22.55	22.45	22.70	22.65
" fresh, loose(b) ..	quart	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" " in bottles (b) ..	"	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.25
Meat—		March Quarter, 1956.			June Quarter, 1956.			September Quarter, 1956.			December Quarter, 1956.			40.32
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	39.55			40.56			40.89			40.26			
" rib (without bone) ..	"	40.78			41.48			41.92			40.44			41.16
" steak, rump ..	"	55.67			56.80			57.03			56.03			56.38
" chuck ..	"	35.07			36.33			36.63			34.77			35.70
" sausages ..	"	21.97			22.95			23.03			22.78			22.68
" (corned) silver-side ..	"	38.90			39.33			39.33			39.10			39.17
" brisket ..	"	30.53			30.30			30.83			29.13			30.20
Mutton, leg ..	"	31.40			31.37			30.50			26.93			30.05
" forequarter ..	"	19.17			19.67			20.04			16.60			18.87
" loin ..	"	30.97			30.93			29.63			26.85			29.60
" chops, loin ..	"	30.97			30.93			29.87			26.93			29.68
" leg ..	"	30.97			30.93			29.87			27.07			29.71
Pork, leg ..	"	58.31			60.12			60.92			59.55			59.73
" loin ..	"	58.38			60.46			61.27			59.98			60.02
" chops ..	"	58.38			60.46			61.50			60.25			60.15

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

(b) Delivered.

SECTION I.—continued.

HOBART: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES^(a) OF FOOD AND GROCERIES ITEMS DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR, 1956.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1956.
Groceries, etc.—		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bread(b) ..	2 lb.	14.50	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	14.96
Flour, plain ..	"	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.97
" self-raising ..	"	19.00	19.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	20.67
Tea ..	lb.	90.45	90.45	88.45	88.45	88.45	88.45	86.45	86.45	86.45	86.45	86.45	86.40	87.78
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.00
Rice ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Tapioca, seed ..	"	16.80	16.80	16.80	16.80	16.90	17.05	17.00	17.80	19.61	21.22	22.11	22.86	18.48
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	28.20	30.80	31.60	31.90	32.20	32.15	32.15	33.40	33.45	33.45	33.60	33.70	32.22
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	20.95	20.95	20.95	20.95	20.95	22.85	22.95	22.95	22.95	22.95	22.95	22.95	22.11
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	11.13	11.13	11.13	11.33	11.33	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.50	11.38
Raisins, seeded ..	"	31.05	30.70	30.70	30.70	30.70	30.80	30.80	30.00	30.00	29.90	29.90	30.15	30.45
Currants ..	"	27.00	27.00	27.13	27.13	27.11	27.06	27.06	27.06	27.06	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.05
Apricots, dried ..	"	58.60	57.00	59.00	58.25	59.50	59.33	60.29	60.43	60.43	60.80	60.80	60.80	59.60
Peaches, canned ..	29 oz.	39.20	39.30	39.45	39.65	39.65	41.85	42.60	42.70	43.00	43.30	43.40	43.20	41.44
Pears, canned ..	"	43.80	43.80	44.80	44.20	44.20	44.90	45.15	45.15	45.05	46.05	46.05	46.45	44.97
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	79.00	66.00	56.50	58.00	61.00	82.00	86.29	83.00	102.00	109.00	102.81	51.33	78.08
Onions, brown ..	lb.	18.13	19.25	11.50	12.00	12.00	12.00	14.50	21.14	24.29	22.00	20.00	13.13	16.66
Soap ..	"	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.26	18.26	18.26	18.26	18.26	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.30
Kerosene ..	quart	13.33	13.33	13.33	13.33	13.33	13.33	13.78	13.78	13.83	13.89	14.04	14.04	13.61
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	54.85	54.75	54.75	54.75	54.75	54.75	56.30	56.30	56.30	56.25	56.25	56.25	55.52
Cheese, mild ..	"	38.66	39.08	39.08	38.94	39.23	39.23	40.11	40.11	40.11	40.11	40.11	40.11	39.57
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	71.50	71.50	71.50	71.50	71.57	72.08	72.08	71.89	54.50	54.50	54.44	66.44	66.96
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	72.90	72.90	72.90	72.90	72.90	76.40	76.80	76.80	77.10	77.50	77.50	77.50	75.34
Milk, condensed ..	14 oz. tin	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	24.30	24.40	24.40	24.40	24.45	24.45	23.95
" fresh, loose(b) ..	quart	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00
" " in bottles (h) ..	"	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
Meat—														
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	March Quarter, 1956.			June Quarter, 1956.			September Quarter, 1956.			December Quarter, 1956.			40.75
" rib (without bone) ..	"	41.23			40.80			40.47			40.50			
" steak, rump ..	"	40.50			40.13			39.50			39.90			40.01
" " chuck ..	"	58.60			58.43			58.13			58.40			58.39
" sausages ..	"	35.03			33.43			32.57			32.60			33.41
" (corned) silver-side ..	"	23.20			23.23			23.50			24.73			23.67
" brisket ..	"	41.87			41.20			40.70			41.00			41.19
Mutton, leg ..	"	31.50			30.70			29.40			29.50			30.28
" forequarter ..	"	29.25			31.13			30.71			29.75			30.21
" loin ..	"	14.92			16.34			16.04			16.92			16.06
" chops, loin ..	"	23.13			23.63			23.13			22.38			23.07
" " leg ..	"	23.55			24.83			24.17			23.09			23.91
Pork, leg ..	"	27.88			29.67			29.08			28.63			28.82
" loin ..	"	55.67			56.03			57.93			61.80			57.86
" chops ..	"	55.37			56.13			58.03			61.60			57.78
" " ..	"	55.57			56.33			58.13			61.60			57.91

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

(b) Delivered.

SECTION II.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN PRINCIPAL CITIES: AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, 1955.

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Item.	Unit.	AUSTRALIA.(a)								NEW ZEALAND.							
		Sydney.				Melbourne.				Wellington.				Christchurch.			
		Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread	2 lb.	13.30	13.30	13.80	13.80	14.00	14.50	15.00	15.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50
Flour, plain	lb.	12.00	12.00	13.19	13.19	11.15	11.25	11.10	11.10	6.36	6.36	6.36	6.36	5.92	5.92	5.92	5.92
Tea	lb.	89.00	89.00	74.20	84.65	89.00	88.60	73.65	85.50	94.00	108.00	88.00	88.00	97.20	108.00	88.00	88.00
Jam, plum	14 lb.	29.75	29.80	29.85	29.85	27.50	27.40	26.95	26.80	31.63	31.54	31.54	31.54	32.06	31.89	31.89	31.89
Sugar	lb.	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83
Rice	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.70	11.80	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Oatmeal	"	9.00	10.08	11.00	11.00	9.40	10.00	9.17	9.00	10.44	11.94	12.00	12.00	10.32	12.00	12.00	12.00
"	"	31.70	31.80	31.90	30.30	29.39	28.72	27.56	27.83	b16.60	b16.40	b16.30	b16.40	b16.60	b16.50	b16.50	b16.50
Peaches, canned	30-oz. tin	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	33.50	33.40	32.55	33.00	47.00	47.40	49.10	49.10	47.70	47.30	47.30	47.40
Potatoes	"	38.50	42.85	35.61	52.90	27.93	31.50	46.63	58.50	24.50	24.92	24.50	28.00	19.81	12.81	12.81	11.83
Onions	lb.	7.80	8.30	9.60	15.80	7.70	6.40	8.10	18.00	5.83	4.63	4.94	5.11	7.25	4.25	4.25	2.13
Milk (g)	quart	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	10.00	9.00	9.00
Butter	lb.	49.30	49.50	53.30	53.10	49.30	49.30	53.30	53.30	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
Cheese	"	33.56	33.56	36.19	36.13	33.00	33.00	35.10	36.30	23.20	23.20	23.20	23.00	23.10	23.00	23.00	22.70
Eggs	dozen	66.00	75.00	60.00	60.00	64.00	67.90	65.00	65.00	64.00	77.40	47.00	47.00	53.00	73.00	42.00	42.00
Bacon	lb.	66.94	69.00	72.78	75.67	63.71	68.75	74.25	78.08	43.40	43.40	43.40	45.00	42.40	42.40	42.40	45.20
		(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)								
Beef, sirloin	"	45.17	45.19	44.45	44.21	38.83	39.60	41.63	41.29	34.33	34.33	34.33	35.67	31.00	31.67	31.67	31.67
" rib (g)	"	34.37	34.20	34.52	34.22	38.67	38.90	40.97	40.53	31.67	30.67	30.67	31.67	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
" steak, rump	"	58.16	57.30	56.98	56.60	51.30	52.40	56.53	57.60	40.00	37.33	37.33	39.00	34.67	36.00	36.00	36.00
" sausages	"	20.01	20.03	20.60	20.47	19.56	19.56	20.60	21.10	16.67	16.33	16.33	16.67	14.33	14.67	14.67	14.67
Mutton, leg	"	21.61	22.87	23.00	23.45	24.43	25.19	26.86	26.67	30.00	29.00	29.00	30.00	28.00	29.00	29.00	29.00
" forequarter	"	14.30	15.11	16.37	15.88	15.29	16.05	17.76	16.78	19.33	19.33	19.33	19.33	15.33	16.33	16.33	16.33
" chops	"	24.17	24.70	25.83	25.10	23.43	23.48	27.14	26.57	28.67	28.00	28.00	29.67	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00
Pork, leg	"	50.61	51.20	54.37	57.15	47.18	49.04	56.74	58.89	38.00	32.67	32.33	34.33	34.33	32.67	33.00	33.00
" chops	"	51.53	52.80	55.12	57.33	50.00	51.23	57.67	59.27	38.00	32.67	33.00	34.33	34.67	34.33	35.00	35.67

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.
for September quarter. (f) Average for December quarter.

(b) Sultanas.

(c) Average for March quarter.

(d) Average for June quarter.

(g) Australian figures are not directly comparable with prices previously published.

(e) Average

SECTION II.—*continued.*AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN PRINCIPAL CITIES: AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, 1955—*continued.*

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Item.	Unit.	UNITED KINGDOM.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.								
			Capetown.					Witwatersrand.			
			Oct.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
Bread	2 lb.	<i>d.</i> 8.6	<i>d.</i> 10.1	<i>d.</i> 10.1	<i>d.</i> 10.1	<i>d.</i> 10.1	<i>d.</i> 9.9	<i>d.</i> 9.9	<i>d.</i> 9.9	<i>d.</i> 9.9	
Flour, plain	"	12.7	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	
Tea	lb.	82.0	109.3	103.3	87.2	93.4	108.1	102.5	86.3	91.5	
Jam	1½ lb.	..	(a) 18.2	(a) 18.2	(a) 18.1	(a) 18.3	(a) 20.4	(a) 20.6	(a) 20.8	(a) 20.9	
Sugar	lb.	8.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.5	
Rice .. .. .	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oatmeal	"	..	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	11.9	
Raisins	"	..	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.1	21.3	21.4	21.3	21.0	
Peaches, canned	30-oz. tin	..	26.8	27.3	27.6	28.0	30.0	30.4	30.8	31.4	
Potatoes	7 lb.	21.9	31.5	34.3	37.8	37.8	25.2	26.6	31.5	31.5	
Onions	lb.	5.4	5.6	6.0	7.9	6.4	6.0	7.4	9.2	6.1	
Milk	quart	14.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	
Butter	lb.	46.1	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	
Cheese	"	30.1	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	
Eggs	dozen	63.0	39.1	47.8	34.3	33.4	39.0	47.5	33.3	33.2	
Bacon	lb.	49.0	43.7	45.1	45.9	46.8	41.1	43.4	44.6	44.5	
Beef, sirloin	"	52.6	23.0	23.0	24.0	24.5	25.9	25.9	26.9	27.1	
" rib	"	37.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" steak, rump	"	..	28.0	28.0	29.0	29.5	29.5	29.4	30.2	30.2	
Mutton, leg	"	42.2	39.0	39.0	39.0	36.0	37.6	36.8	38.3	37.7	
Pork, leg	"	50.3	28.0	28.0	31.0	31.5	28.3	28.7	29.6	30.4	
" chops	"	..	30.0	30.0	32.0	32.5	30.0	30.6	32.5	33.0	

(a) Apricot jam.

SECTION II.—continued.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN PRINCIPAL CITIES: AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, 1955—continued.

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Item.	Unit.	CANADA.								UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.(a)			
		Ottawa.				Montreal.				Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
		Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.				
Bread	2 lb.	cents. 24.4	cents. 24.4	cents. 24.4	cents. 24.4	cents. 24.8	cents. 24.8	cents. 24.8	cents. 24.8	cents. 35.4	cents. 35.4	cents. 35.4	cents. 35.6
Flour, plain	"	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	21.6	21.6	21.5	21.4
Tea	lb.	119.8	129.2	122.0	121.4	121.2	129.8	123.4	123.0	..	..	..	..
Jam(b)	1½ lb.	34.2	34.5	34.8	34.2	36.3	36.5	35.9	35.3	..	..	..	..
Sugar	lb.	8.7	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.3	10.5	10.4	10.4	10.5
Rice .. ..	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.6	17.8	18.1	17.5
Oatmeal .. ..	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.1	15.3	15.4	15.4
Raisins	"	22.8	22.8	22.8	22.8	23.5	23.5	23.6	23.4	..	..	..	..
Peaches, canned	30-oz. tin	41.2	41.2	42.0	40.4	40.0	40.0	40.2	40.4	37.8	56.6	34.0	33.0
Potatoes	7 lb.	31.2	51.2	33.3	20.5	28.4	47.3	31.0	19.0	..	..	..	..
Onions	lb.	10.4	9.8	11.2	7.8	10.7	10.1	11.3	9.2	7.7	8.5	7.8	8.2
Milk	quart	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	23.2	22.5	23.0	23.9
Butter	lb.	65.7	62.6	61.4	62.2	65.1	61.1	60.6	61.0	71.2	70.4	70.5	71.0
Cheese	"	63.4	63.2	64.0	64.0	64.4	64.4	64.2	64.0	57.8	57.7	57.9	57.8
Eggs	dozen	49.4	55.6	73.6	74.8	48.8	56.1	72.8	75.6	59.0	53.2	65.3	66.4
Bacon	lb.	74.2	72.6	74.6	74.0	78.0	74.8	75.2	74.0	69.0	65.5	67.3	60.9
Beef, sirloin	"	77.4	76.8	84.1	81.2	89.7	88.8	91.8	90.7	72.4	70.7	69.5	68.7
" rib	"	73.8	73.4	73.4	75.0	77.8	76.9	78.9	78.4	..	..	..	..
" steak, rump .. ..	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(c) 92.1	(c) 89.2	(c) 90.6	(c) 88.1
Pork chops	"	63.0	58.6	66.2	67.4	58.5	57.0	62.4	62.5	75.7	82.9	81.4	73.2

(a) Average for all towns.

(b) Strawberry jam.

(c) Round steak.

SECTION II.—*continued.*

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN PRINCIPAL CITIES: AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, 1956.

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Item.	Unit.	AUSTRALIA.(a)								NEW ZEALAND.							
		Sydney.				Melbourne.				Wellington.				Christchurch.			
		Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
Bread	2 lb.	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Flour, plain	"	13.80	13.80	14.80	14.80	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	8.57	7.50	7.50	7.50	8.57
Tea	lb.	13.36	13.50	14.56	14.56	11.05	11.00	11.00	11.30	6.36	6.36	6.36	6.38	5.92	5.92	5.92	5.92
Jam, plum	1½ lb.	84.65	82.85	80.50	79.70	85.30	83.25	81.35	81.10	88.00	88.00	88.00	88.00	88.00	88.00	88.00	88.00
Sugar	lb.	30.60	30.90	31.65	34.86	27.15	27.20	27.20	27.00	31.54	31.54	31.54	b43.29	31.71	31.71	31.71	b43.50
Rice	"	9.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.00	9.30	10.00	10.00	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.86	8.83	8.83	8.83	8.83
Oatmeal	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.75				10.58				10.00
Raisins	"	11.00	10.08	10.07	10.10	9.00	8.83	8.50	9.13	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Peaches, canned	30-oz. tin	30.30	30.30	30.30	31.00	27.78	27.50	27.50	28.31	c16.50	c16.50	c17.00		c16.50	c16.40	c17.00	
Potatoes	7 lb.	40.60	40.95	40.90	40.90	34.06	35.28	35.75	35.80	48.80	49.40	49.40	49.25	48.10	49.00	49.00	49.10
Onions	lb.	65.60	77.45	119.00	64.35	58.56	70.88	126.22	107.64	48.44	68.81	116.69	126.00	38.50	56.77	98.00	98.00
Milk	quart	10.70	10.50	17.20	10.80	12.00	8.20	16.25	17.00	6.78	5.00	12.83	14.25	4.42	4.78	8.00	11.33
Butter	lb.	22.00	22.00	22.00	22.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	9.00	9.00	9.50	9.50	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Cheese	"	53.10	53.10	54.70	54.15	53.30	53.15	54.85	54.60	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
Eggs	dozen	36.69	37.13	38.75	39.00	36.63	37.50	39.00	39.50	23.10	23.10	23.30	23.83	22.90	23.30	23.50	24.00
Bacon	lb.	69.00	75.00	75.00	66.00	68.00	75.00	65.00	64.80	58.00	79.00	47.00	48.00	53.00	74.00	42.00	43.00
		76.67	80.28	86.50	88.17	79.25	83.17	85.33	86.33	45.80	45.20	46.30	46.67	45.20	44.80	46.20	46.20
		(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)								
Beef, sirloin	"	44.10	45.55	46.00	45.53	41.29	42.50	42.30	41.80	34.00	32.00	31.67	31.20	31.67	31.33	31.00	30.33
" rib	"	34.57	35.52	35.93	35.40	41.13	41.93	41.73	41.27	30.00	28.67	28.67	28.40	30.00	30.33	29.67	29.00
" steak, rump	"	56.83	59.17	59.53	59.20	57.80	60.67	59.97	60.10	38.33	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	35.67	35.33	35.00
" sausages	"	20.67	21.25	22.80	23.13	21.52	23.29	24.33	24.79	16.67	16.67	16.67	16.80	14.67	14.67	14.67	14.67
Mutton, leg	"	24.12	26.27	27.00	26.50	26.29	29.85	28.81	28.09	29.33	29.67	29.67	29.20	29.00	29.00	28.33	28.33
" forequarter	"	15.93	17.78	19.45	18.15	16.45	19.50	18.61	18.61	18.00	16.67	16.67	17.40	16.33	16.33	14.33	14.33
" chops	"	25.15	27.65	29.53	28.07	26.24	29.19	28.53	27.76	28.67	28.67	28.67	28.20	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00
Pork, leg	"	57.25	58.34	61.57	63.26	60.92	61.38	63.52	64.96	35.33	35.33	36.00	35.60	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.67
" chops	"	56.78	58.33	62.27	62.33	60.87	61.50	63.47	66.60	34.67	34.33	35.00	35.60	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.67

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives. (b) Raspberry jam. (c) Sultanas. (d) Average for March quarter. (e) Average for June quarter.
 (f) Average for September quarter. (g) Average for December quarter.

SECTION II.—continued.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN PRINCIPAL CITIES: AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, 1956—continued.

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Item.	Unit.	UNITED KINGDOM.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.								
			Capetown.					[Witwatersrand.			
			Oct.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
Bread	2 lb.	11.89	10.0	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	
Flour, plain	"	13.40	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	
Tea	lb.	78.00	92.2	97.3	94.8	94.8	92.5	97.6	95.7	99.4	
Jam	1½ lb.		(a) 18.8	(a) 19.4	(a) 19.4	(a) 19.5	(a) 21.5	(a) 22.1	(a) 22.0	(a) 22.0	
Sugar	lb.	7.95	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	
Rice	"										
Oatmeal	"		11.9	11.9	12.4	12.4	11.9	11.9	12.3	12.3	
Raisins	"		19.3	15.8	15.3	15.3	21.6	18.8	18.4	17.9	
Peaches, canned	30-oz. tin		28.6	29.1	29.3	29.3	31.3	31.8	32.1	32.4	
Potatoes	7 lb. tin	16.60	32.9	32.2	32.9	37.8	23.1	25.9	28.7	29.4	
Onions	lb.	6.10	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.8	5.0	5.5	5.4	4.6	
Milk	quart	15.00	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	
Butter	lb.	45.10	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	
Cheese	"	38.10	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	
Eggs	dozen	45.60	39.0	44.8	34.0	34.0	39.0	45.2	34.0	34.0	
Bacon	lb.	49.60	46.7	46.7	46.7	46.7	44.7	45.0	44.8	44.9	
Beef, sirloin	"	50.50	26.5	28.0	28.0	28.0	29.2	28.8	29.2	30.0	
" rib	"	35.30									
" steak, rump	"		31.5	36.0	36.0	36.0	33.3	33.4	33.2	34.6	
Mutton, leg	"	41.30	39.0	36.0	34.0	33.0	38.4	37.7	36.7	38.3	
Pork, leg	"	48.80	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.0	31.1	30.7	30.6	30.6	
" chops	"		32.5	35.5	35.5	35.0	33.5	33.5	33.6	33.6	

(a) Apricot jam.

SECTION II.—*continued.*AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN PRINCIPAL CITIES: AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES, 1956—*continued.*

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Item.	Unit.	CANADA.								UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.(a)			
		Ottawa.				Montreal.				Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
		Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.				
Bread	2 lb.	cents. 24.4	cents. 24.0	cents. 25.4	cents. 25.4	cents. 24.8	cents. 24.8	cents. 24.8	cents. 25.8	cents. 35.2	cents. 35.4	cents. 36.2	cents. 36.6
Flour, plain ..	2 lb.	14.8	15.2	15.2	15.6	15.0	15.0	15.2	15.6	21.2	21.4	21.4	21.3
Tea	lb.	121.2	121.2	121.2	120.0	122.8	122.8	122.8	122.4	..	..	..	..
Jam(b)	1½ lb.	33.9	33.8	34.5	35.9	34.7	34.5	35.4	34.7	..	..	..	..
Sugar	lb.	8.5	8.4	8.6	8.6	8.3	8.3	8.4	8.4	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.7
Rice .. ..	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17.2	17.1	17.2	17.2
Oatmeal .. ..	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.5
Raisins	"	23.1	22.7	23.5	23.8	23.8	23.1	23.6	24.0	..	..	..	..
Peaches, canned	30-oz. tin	40.8	40.8	41.0	45.2	40.2	39.6	40.4	43.8	..	..	..	..
Potatoes	7 lb.	25.6	33.0	43.8	25.8	25.0	31.5	31.9	25.0	38.4	55.8	54.3	36.9
Onions	lb.	9.0	9.8	17.0	9.6	9.6	10.4	17.5	10.1	7.9	9.1	13.5	7.1
Butter	quart	21.4	21.4	21.4	22.4	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	23.6	23.7	(c) 24.3	(c) 24.8
Cheese	lb.	62.6	62.2	61.8	63.0	61.6	61.7	60.9	61.6	70.8	71.7	72.0	74.5
Eggs	dozen	63.6	64.4	67.4	68.2	64.6	65.6	67.2	67.0	57.0	57.2	57.4	57.2
Bacon	lb.	52.5	62.0	74.4	71.4	54.3	63.5	74.2	70.2	59.2	57.3	60.4	61.2
Beef, sirloin ..	"	69.2	66.4	71.8	93.2	68.2	65.2	71.0	93.0	53.9	54.2	59.5	60.6
" rib	"	76.0	72.9	87.1	84.0	89.1	86.1	97.6	96.7	65.9	65.7	71.2	75.8
" steak, rump ..	"	74.0	69.8	76.9	80.3	77.7	75.3	81.8	84.8	(d) 83.0	(d) 84.0	(d) 92.1	(d) 93.5
Pork chops ..	"	58.6	59.4	72.0	72.2	57.3	59.6	70.4	71.1	69.2	77.3	85.2	79.3

(a) Average for all towns. (b) Strawberry jam. (c) Milk, fresh, delivered—homogenized with vitamin "D" added. Previously described as "Milk, fresh, delivered."
 (d) Round steak.

SECTION III.

**MINIMUM RATES OF WAGE FOR ADULT MALE WORKERS IN THE MAIN
OCCUPATIONS IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF EACH STATE FOR A FULL
WEEK'S WORK (EXCLUDING OVERTIME) AT 31st DECEMBER, 1956.**

NOTE.—These rates are quoted from the latest Awards, Determinations or Agreements which were in force at 31st December, 1956. Where two or more Award, Determination or Agreement Rates are quoted, the reason for this is that different rates of wage have been fixed for various classes or grades of work. In certain cases of this nature the wages are shown in the form (say) 260s. 0d. to 280s. 0d., indicating that in addition to the two rates specified there are also certain intermediate rates in force. In other cases the rates are shown in the form 261s. 6d. and 276s. 6d., indicating that there are only two minimum or standard rates in force for different classes or grades of work, and that there are no intermediate minimum or standard rates. Except where otherwise specified by a numerical prefix in small type, the hours of labour constituting a full week's work are 40. (See footnote below.) Rates for some occupations have been revised and are not necessarily comparable with those quoted in previous issues.

GROUP I.—WOOD, FURNITURE, SAWMILLS AND TIMBER YARDS.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Coopering—</i>						
Coopers	328 0	333 0	321 0	316 0	343 9	362 0
<i>Furniture—</i>						
Cabinetmakers ..	346 0	320 0	313 0	316 0	339 2	327 0
Carpet Planners ..	346 0	320 0	..	316 0	338 8	327 0
Chairmakers ..	346 0	320 0	313 0	316 0	339 2	327 0
French Polishers ..	346 0	320 0	313 0	316 0	337 8	327 0
Upholsterers ..	346 0	320 0	313 0	316 0	337 8	327 0
Woodcarvers ..	346 0	320 0	313 0	316 0	337 8	327 0
Wood Machinists ..	346 0	275/ to 320/	313 0	271/ to 316/	337 8	282/ to 327/
<i>Mattress Making—Wire—</i>						
Finishers	324 0	275 0	306 7	271 0	295 2	282 0
Makers	324/ & 336/	320 0	306 7	316 0	308 8	327 0
<i>Picture Framing—</i>						
Stainers	328 0	285 0	295 0	281 0	} 295 2 {	292 0
Joiners	328 0	275 0	295 0	271 0		282 0
Mount Cutters ..	328 0	275 0	295 0	271 0		282 0
<i>Sawmilling and Timber Yards—</i>						
Box and Casemakers ..	293 0	285 0	266 6	281 0	287 2	292 0
Labourers	267 0	259 0	256 6	255 0	265 2	266 0
<i>Machinists—</i>						
Box Printing ..	274 6	266 6	..	262 6	..	273 6
Boults Carver ..	323 0	315 0	..	311 0	..	322 0
Nailing	278 0	270 0	266 6	266 0	..	277 0
Planing	296/ & 323/	288/ & 315/	266 6	284/ & 311/	286/2 to 326/8	295/ & 322/
Shaping	323 0	315 0	266 6	311 0	333 2	322 0
Ordermen	301 0	293 0	271 6	289 0	304 8	300 0
Saw Doctors ..	343 0	335 0	306 6	331 0	352 8	342 0
<i>Sawyers—</i>						
Band or jig ..	295/6 to 328/	287/6 to 320/	271/6 to 306/6	283/6 to 316/	304/8 & 323/8	294/6 to 327/
Circular	298/ & 320/	290/ & 312/	..	286/ & 308/	304/8 & 320/8	297/ & 319/
Stackers	270/ & 278/	262/ & 270/	..	258/ & 266/	278/2 & 286/2	269/ & 277/
Wood Turners ..	323 0	315 0	296 6	311 0	..	322 0

Various numbers of hours constituting a full week's work.

- (1) 34 hours. (2) 36 hours. (3) 37½ hours. (4) 38 hours. (5) 76 hours per fortnight.
 (6) 44 hours. (7) 60 hours. (8) 35 to 40 hours. (9) 48 hours.

SECTION III.—continued.

GROUP II.—ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
<i>Agricultural Implements—</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Assemblers ..	298 0	270/ & 280/	273 0	266/ & 276/	290/2 & 300/2	297 0
Bulldozermen ..	330 6	282 6	305 6	278 6	329 6	329 6
Drillers ..	288/ to 328/	272 6	263/ to 303/	268 6	332 8	287/ to 327/
Fitters ..	298/ & 328/	285/ to 320/	273/ to 303/	281/ to 316/	310/2 & 315/2	297/ to 327/
Labourers—Unskilled	262 0	254 0	237 0	250 0	265 2	261 0
Machinists—Metal ..	288/ to 328/	280/ to 320/	263/ to 303/	276/ to 316/	300/2 to 340/2	287/ to 327/
Painters—Brush ..	276 0	268 0	251 0	264 0	287 8	275 0
Spray ..	278 0	270 0	253 0	266 0	290 2	277 0
Patternmakers ..	350 6	342 6	325 6	338 6	362 8	349 6
Sheet Metal Workers	303/ & 328/	295/ to 320/	278/ & 303/	291/ to 316/	315/2 & 340/2	302/ & 327/
Strikers ..	276/ & 280/6	268/ & 272/6	251/ & 255/6	264/ & 268/6	289 2	275/ & 279/6
<i>Boilermaking—</i>						
Boilermakers ..	328 0	320 0	343 6	316 0	340 2	327 0
Structural Steel Tradesmen ..	328 0	320 0	..	316 0	340 2	327 0
<i>Cycles and Motor Cycles—</i>						
Assemblers ..	293 6	296/6 & 308/	299 6	273/ & 285/6	290 2	305/ & 319/6
Frame Builders ..	304 0	308/ & 313/6	329 0	282/ & 297/	290 2	319 6
Repairers ..	304 0	308/ & 313/6		282/ & 297/	315 2	319 6
Turners (Cycle) ..	304 0	338 0		..	340 2	324 0
<i>Electrical Installation—</i>						
Cable Joiners ..	355 0	312/6 & 317/6	343 6	308/6 & 313/6	340 2	319/6 & 324/6
Electrical Fitters ..	355 0	320 0	346 3	316 0	340 2	327 0
Electrical Mechanics ..	355 0	320 0	343 6	316 0	332 8	327 0
Patrolmen ..	..	273/6 & 302/6	293 5	269 6	..	280/6 & 309/6
Linesmen ..	347 0	302 6	343 6	298 6	322 8	309 6
Other Adults ..	303 0	254 0	282 6	250 0	285 2	261 0
<i>Electrical Supply—</i>						
Armature Winders ..	401 0	338 0	361 3	316 0	340 2	347 0
Cable Joiners ..	408 0	330/6 & 335/6	358 6	308/6 & 313/6	340 2	339/6 & 344/6
Instrument Makers ..	425 0	363 0	361 3	341 0	340 2	372 0
Linesmen ..	371/ & 386/	320/6 to 338/	358 6	316 0	322 8	329/6 to 347/
Meter Testers ..	399 0	320/6 & 331/6	356 3	286/ & 296/	..	317/ & 327/
Patrolmen—Night ..	438 0	(a) 383 2	(a) 339 11	(a) 336 11	..	(a) 411 11
Shift Electricians ..	431 0	338 0	375 3	316 0	..	347 0
Switchboard Attendants ..	..	316 6	290 0	294 6	..	325 6
Labourers ..	337 0	280 0	290 0	250 0	285 2	281 0
<i>Electrical Trades—</i>						
Electrical Fitters ..	328 0	320 0	346 3	316 0	340 2	327 0
Electrical Mechanics ..	328 0	320 0	343 6	316 0	332 8	327 0
Radio Tradesmen ..	328 0	320 0	343 6	316 0	340 2	327 0
<i>Electroplating—</i>						
Platers ..	275/ to 328/	267/ to 320/	316 0	263/ to 316/	315/2 & 340/2	274/ to 327/
Polishers ..	293 0	285 0	281 0	281 0	305 2	292 0
<i>Engineering—</i>						
Blacksmiths ..	330 6	322 6	351 0	318 6	340 2	329 6
Borers and Slotters ..	303/ & 328/	295/ & 320/	343 6	291/ & 316/	315/2 & 340/2	302/ & 327/
Brassfinishers ..	303/ & 328/	295/ & 320/	343 6	291/ & 316/	340 2	302/ & 327/
Coopersmiths ..	330 6	322 6	346 0	318 6	292/8 & 340/2	329 6
Drillers—Radial ..	278/ & 320/6	270/ & 312/6	295 6	266/ & 308/6	290/2 & 332/8	277/ & 319/6
Fitters ..	328 0	320 0	343 6	316 0	340 2	327 0
Millers ..	303/ & 328/	295/ & 320/	343 6	291/ & 316/	315/2 & 340/2	302/ & 327/
Patternmakers ..	350 6	342 6	366 0	338 6	362 8	349 6

(a) Includes allowance for continuous night work.

SECTION III.—*continued.*GROUP II.—ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Engineering—continued.</i>						
Planers—						
Rail and Plate Edge	303/ & 328/	295/ & 320/	295 6	291/ & 316/	315/2 & 340/2	302/ & 327/
Other	303/ & 328/	295/ & 320/	343 6	291/ & 316/	315/2 & 340/2	302/ & 327/
Shapers	303/ & 328/	295/ & 320/	343 6	291/ & 316/	315/2 & 340/2	302/ & 327/
Turners	328 0	320 0	343 6	316 0	340 2	327 0
<i>Foundry—</i>						
Coremakers—Machine	281/ to 303/	273/ to 295/	343 6	269/ to 291/	289/2 to 315/2	280/ & 302/
" Jobbing	328 0	320 0	343 6	316 0	340 2	327 0
Dressers	276/ to 300/6	268/ to 292/6	295 0	264/ to 288/6	292/8 & 297/8	275/ & 299/6
Furnacemen ..	290/6 to 298/	282/6 to 290/	296/6 to 326/	278/6 to 286/	302/8 to 310/2	289/6 to 297/
Moulders—Machine..	281/ to 303/	273/ to 295/	308 6	269/ to 291/	289/2 to 315/2	280/ to 302/
" Jobbing ..	328 0	320 0	343 6	316 0	340 2	327 0
<i>Ironworking Assistants—</i>						
Boilermakers' Assis-						
tants	276 0	268 0	290 6	264 0	289 2	275 0
Fitters' Assistants ..	276 0	268 0	290 6	264 0	289 2	275 0
Furnacemen's Assis-						
tants	276 0	268 0	280 4	264 0	288 2	275 0
Moulders' Assistants..	276 0	268 0	292 0	264 0	289 2	275 0
Strikers	276/ & 280/6	268/ & 272/6	290 6	264/ & 268/6	289 2	275/ & 279/6
<i>Sheet Metal Working—</i>						
Canister Makers ..	283 0	275 0	293 6	271 0	295 2	282 0
Japanners—						
Coating or Brush-						
work	275 0	267 0	308 6	263 0	290 2	274 0
Ornamental	303 0	295 0	308 6	291 0	290 2	302 0
Solderers	275/ & 283/	267/ & 275/	..	263/ & 271/	295 2	274/ & 282/
Sheet Metal Workers—						
1st Class	328 0	320 0	343 6	316 0	340 2	327 0
2nd Class	303 0	295 0	308 6	291 0	315 2	302 0
<i>Nailmaking—</i>						
Case Wires	291 0	272 0	..	..	..	275 0
Labourers	291 0	272 0	..	..	..	275 0
Setters Up	309 0	308 0	..	..	..	300 0
<i>Wire Working—</i>						
Journeyman	294 0	308 0	269 0	..	272 8	..

GROUP III.—FOOD, DRINK, TOBACCO, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Aerated Water and</i>						
Cordials—						
Bottlers	280 0	272 0	255 0	279 0	280 2	279 0
Drivers (Motor, 3-ton)	297 6	290 6	286 6	286 6	311 2	297 6
Packers	277 0	269 0	252 0	275 0	265 2	276 0
Wires	277 0	269 0	252 0	275 0	265 2	276 0
<i>Baking (Bread)—</i>						
Board Hands	357 0	362 6	..	314 0	350 2	352 0
Carters (One Horse) ..	334 0	335 6	288 0	308 6	291 8	336 0
Doughmen	369/6 & 372/6	369 2	288 6	355 3	362 2	352 0
Ovenmen	365 6	362 6	286 0	314 0	350 2	352 0
Singlehands	362 0	385 10	288 6	325 3	362 2	352 0
<i>Baking (Biscuits and</i>						
Cakes)—						
Adult Males	292 6	283 0	251 6	254 0	268 2	276 0
Bakers	325 0	313 0	262 0	286 0	297 8	321 0
Mixers	312/6 & 307/	313 0	262 0	281 0	303 2	327 0

SECTION III.—*continued.*GROUP III.—FOOD, DRINK, TOBACCO, ETC.—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Brewing—</i>						
Adult Males ..	295 0	288 0	287 0	311 0	313 2	295 0
Bottlers and Washers ..	295 0	288 0	287 0	311 0	313 2	295 0
Cellarmen ..	295/ & 302/	295 0	302 0	326 0	318 2	295 0
Drivers (Motor, 3-ton) ..	309 0	290 6	290 6	330 0	328 2	297 6
Towermen ..	302 0	295 0	287 0	326 0	318 2	318 0
<i>Butchering (Carcass)—</i>						
Chilling Room Hands	306/ to 312/	366 6	330 9	309/9 & 317/9	293 2	371 0
Labourers (Beef) ..	311 0	329 6	307 6	309 9	281 2	337 0
„ (Mutton) ..	301 0	329 6	314 6	309 9	281 2	337 0
Scaiders ..	364 0	340 0	313 2	415 0	310 2	349 0
Slaughtermen (Beef) ..	408 0	401 6	(a)	415 0	310 2	409 0
„ (Mutton) ..	(a)	401 6	(a)	415 0	310 2	409 0
<i>Butchering (Retail)—</i>						
Carters (Cash Cutting)	319 0	311 0	294 0	307 0	317 8	332 0
„ (One Horse) ..	296 0	268 6	271 0	284 0	278 2	275 6
General Butchers ..	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	317 8	342 0
Shopmen ..	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	317 8	342 0
Smallgoodsmen ..	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	317 8	335 0
<i>Cold Storage and Ice—</i>						
Chamber Hands ..	311/ & 325/	366 6	257 6	273 0	290 2	348 3
Pullers and Stackers ..	300 0	353 10	260 9	273 0	290 2	..
<i>Confectionery—</i>						
Confectioners, Grade I.	331 0	320 0	303 0	301 0	305 2	309 0
Storemen ..	314 0	313 0	278 0	267 0	270 2	278 0
<i>Ham and Bacon Curing—</i>						
Curers—First Hand ..	339 0	357 6	312 7	334 0	335 2	355 0
Cutters Up—First Hand ..	319 0	357 6	306 2	334 0	317 8	355 0
Ham Baggers ..	..	330 0	297 6	306 6	..	342 0
Lardmen ..	309 0	330/ to 342/	297 6	306/6 & 318/6	..	342 0
Rollers and Trimmers	324 0	342 0	291 1	318 6	301/2 & 317/8	355 0
Scaiders ..	324 0	342 0	302 6	318 6	317 8	355 0
Slaughtermen ..	324 0	357 6	314 11	334 0	335 2	409 0
Smallgoodsmen—First Hand ..	329 0	348 9	312 7	325 3	317 8	363 0
Smokers—First Hand	319 0	342 0	303 5	318 6	..	342 0
<i>Jam Making and Pre-serving—</i>						
Adult Males ..	272 0	272 0	264 6	272 0	277 2	272 0
Solderers ..	277 0	277 0	..	277 0	285 2	277 0
<i>Malting—</i>						
Maltsters ..	293 0	286 0	277 0	..	313 2	300 0
<i>Milling—Condiments—</i>						
Grinders ..	322 6	299 0	..	..	..	..
Mixers or Blenders ..	316 6	279 0	267 6	..	294 2	..
Stone Dressers ..	322 6	299 0	..	..	..	..
<i>Milling—Flour—</i>						
Millers—Head ..	360 0	360 0	295 0	360 0	360 0	351 9
„ Shift ..	322/6 to 360/	322/6 to 360/	280/ to 289/	322/6 to 360/	322/6 to 360/	344/9 to 365/
Packermen ..	298 0	293 0	265 6	298 0	298 0	320 9
Purifiers ..	302 6	302 6	265 6	302 6	302 6	315 3
Silksmen ..	302 6	302 6	265 6	302 6	302 6	315 3
Storemen—Head ..	305/ & 313/	305/ & 313/	265/6 & 271/	305/ & 313/	305/ & 313/	300/9 & 307/6
Topmen ..	302 6	302 6	268 0	302 6	302 6	315 3
Truckers and Others..	273 0	273 0	263 0	273 0	273 0	291 0
<i>Milling—Oatmeal—</i>						
Kilnmen ..	314 0	274 6	..	..	..	300/ & 304/3
Millers—Head ..	341 6	299 0	..	..	..	341/9 & 346/9
<i>Pastrycooking—</i>						
Carters ..	307 0	291 0	283 0	308 6	301 2	306 0
Pastrycooks ..	341 0	332 0	294/6 & 302/	314 0	315 2	334 6

(a) Piece-work rates.

SECTION III.—*continued.*

GROUP IV.—CLOTHING TEXTILES, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Bootmaking—</i>						
Bootmakers ..	302 0	302 0	302 0	302 0	294 0	302 0
<i>Tailoring—Order—</i>						
Cutters ..	424 0	329 0	329 0	329 0	329 0	329 0
Pressers ..	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0
Tailors ..	306 0	306 0	306 0	306 0	306 0	306 0
Trimmers ..	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0
<i>Tailoring—Ready-made—</i>						
Cutters ..	310 0	310 0	310 0	310 0	310 0	310 0
Folders ..	274 0	274 0	274 0	274 0	274 0	274 0
Machinists ..	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0
Pressers ..	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0
Tailors ..	306 0	306 0	306 0	306 0	306 0	306 0
Trimmers ..	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0	297 0
<i>Textile-Working—Woollen Mills—</i>						
Carders ..	280 0	280 0	273 0	273 0	280 0	280 0
Dyehousemen ..	285 0	285 0	273 0	278 0	285 0	285 0
Labourers—General ..	251 0	251 0	255 0	244 0	251 0	251 0
Pattern Weavers ..	294 0	294 0	255 0	287 0	294 0	294 0
Scourers (Wool) ..	294 6	294 6	276/ & 282/6	287 6	294 6	294 6
Spinners ..	280 0	280 0	273/ & 282/	273 0	280 0	280 0
Loom Tuners ..	272/ to 318/	272/ to 318/	269/ to 311/	265/ to 311/	272/ to 318/	272/ to 318/

GROUP V.—BOOKS, PRINTING, BINDING, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Bookbinding—</i>						
Bookbinders ..	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	321 0	327 0
Finishers ..	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	321 0	327 0
Marblers ..	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	321 0	327 0
Paper Rulers ..	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	321 0	327 0
<i>Engraving (Photo)u—</i>						
Engravers ..	331 9	341 9	342 9	301 0	340 2	350 9
Etchers—Half-tone ..	341 9	351 9	352 9	305 6	340 2	360 9
Etchers—Line ..	331 9	341 9	342 9	301 0	322 8	350 9
Camera Operators ..	341 9	351 9	352 9	305 6	340 2	360 9
Photo Imposers ..	331 9	341 9	342 9	301 0	322 8	350 9
Routers ..	328 0	338 0	339 0	299 0	311 2	347 0
<i>Lithographing—</i>						
Printers ..	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	321 0	327 0
Rotary Machinists ..	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	321 0	327 0
Stone Polishers ..	281 0	273 0	256 0	269 0	274 0	280 0
<i>Printing (Daily Newspapers)—</i>						
Compositors (Machine)						
Day Work ..	434 0	409 0	394 0	368 6	424 3	379 6
Night Work ..	454 0	444 0	404/ & 419/	393 6	439 3	404 6
Linotype Attendants—						
Day Work ..	359 0	356 9	330 0	320 0	337 2	331 0
Night Work ..	379 0	439 1	340/ & 355/	345 0	352 2	356 0
Linotype Operators—						
Day Work ..	399 0	409 0	377 6	333 0	424 3	344 0
Night Work ..	419 0	444 0	387/6 & 402/6	358 0	439 3	369 0
Machinists (First Hand)—						
Day Work ..	389 0	419 9	386 0	353 6	400 11	364 6
Night Work ..	409 0	454 9	396/ & 411/	378 6	415 11	389 6
Publishing Hands—						
Day Work ..	359 0	356 9	330 0	314 0	341 4	325 0
Night Work ..	379 0	439 1	340/ & 355/	339 0	356 4	350 0
Readers—						
Day Work ..	399 0	413 0	377 6	346 0	400 11	357 0
Night Work ..	419 0	448 0	387/6 & 402/6	371 0	415 11	382 0

(a) Other than in newspaper offices.

SECTION III.—*continued.*GROUP V.—BOOKS, PRINTING, BINDING, ETC.—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
<i>Printing (Daily Newspapers) continued.</i>						
Readers' Assistants—						
Day Work ..	359 0	364 6	337 6	311 0	337 2	322 0
Night Work ..	379 0	4399 6	347/6 & 362/6	336 0	352 2	347 0
Stereotypers (First Class)—						
Day Work ..	389 0	415 3	372 6	330 0	369 1	341 0
Night Work ..	409 0	4450 3	382/6 & 397/6	355 0	384 1	366 0
<i>Printing (Job Offices)—</i>						
Compositors ..	328/ to 350/6	320/ to 342/6	303/ to 325/6	316/ to 338/6	321/ to 343/6	327/ to 349/6
Electrotypers ..	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	321 0	327 0
General Hands ..	269 0	261 0	244 0	257 0	262 0	268 0
Linotype Operators ..	350 6	342 6	325 6	338 6	343 6	349 6
Machinists ..	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	321 0	327 0
Monotype Operators ..	350 6	342 6	325 6	338 6	343 6	349 6
Monotype Casting ..						
Machinists ..	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	321 0	327 0
Readers ..	335 6	327 6	310 6	323 6	328 6	334 6
Stereotypers ..	328 0	320 0	303 0	316 0	321 0	327 0

GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
<i>Brickmaking—</i>						
Burners ..	314/6 & 322/6	314 0	268 0	292 6	302 8	325 0
Drivers, Motor (5 tons) ..	336 0	300 0	296 0	296 0	321 2	327 0
Drawers ..	344 6	313/6 to 326/6	265 6	297 6	307 2	325 0
Labourers ..	311 0	303 0	257 8	280 0	291 2	321 6
Machinemen ..	336 6	310 6	265 6	291 0	291 2	321 6
Panmen ..	320/6 & 340/6	306/6 & 310/6	265 6	298/6 & 301/6	291 2	321 6
Pitmen ..	337 6	328/6 to 334/6	259 6	305 0	291 2	321 6
Setters ..	344 6	313/6 & 326/6	264 0	297 6	307 2	328/6 & 335/6
Wheelers ..	333 0	308 0	259 6	286 0	291 2	321 6
<i>Brushmaking—</i>						
Bass Broom Drawers ..	334 6	308 0	276 6	286 0	298 8	..
Finishers ..	334 6	308 0	276 6			..
Machinists—Boring ..	314 6	290 0	276 6			..
Paint Brush Makers ..	342 0	320 6	276 6			..
<i>Candle Making—</i>						
Acidifiers ..	301 6	291 6	263 6			..
General Hands ..	298 0	267 0	267 0	263 0	286 2	..
Glycerine Hands ..	301 6	291 6	268 6	287 6	295 2	..
Moulders ..	310 3	277 6	268 6	273 6	289 2	..
Stillmen ..	315 6	291 6	272 0	287 6	..	..
<i>Cardboard Box Making—</i>						
Guilloime and other Cutters ..	284/6 to 306/9	276/6 to 298/9	279 6	272/6 to 294/9	277/6 to 299/9	283/3 to 305/9
Other Adults ..	269 0	261 0	257 0	257 0	262 0	268 0
<i>Vehicle Building—</i>						
Body-makers, 1st Class ..	328 0	320 0	343 6	316 0	340 2	327 0
Labourers ..	256 0	248 0	280 4	244 0	265 2	255 0
Painters ..	281/6 to 320/6	273/6 to 312/6	336 0	269/6 to 308/6	332 8	280/6 to 319/6
Smiths ..	330 6	322 6	346 0	318 6	340 2	329 6
Trimmers ..	303/ & 320/6	295/ & 312/6	336 0	291/ & 308/6	332 8	302/ & 319/6
Wheelmaking Machinists ..	328 0	320 0	338 6	316 0	332 8	327 0
Wheelwrights ..	328 0	320 0	343 6	316 0	340 2	327 0

SECTION III.—continued.

GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
<i>Fellmongering—</i>						
Bate Hands ..	278 0	271 0	255 0	267 0	305 2	274 0
Green Hands ..	278 0	271 0	255 0	267 0	305/2 & 316/2	274 0
Limepit Men ..	278 0	271 0	255 0	267 0	305 2	274 0
Machinists ..	278/ to 286/6	271/ to 279/6	255/ to 263/6	267/ to 275/6	305/2 & 316/2	274/ to 282/6
Soakhole Men ..	281 0	274 0	258 0	270 0	316 2	277 0
Wool Sorters ..	296/6 & 316/6	289/6 & 309/6	273/6 & 293/6	285/6 & 305/6	319 2	292/6 & 312/6
<i>Gas Making and Supply—</i>						
Coke Trimmers ..	281 0	284 0	..	265 0	279 2	273 0
Gas Fitters ..	367 0	346 6	327 9	330 0	328 2	327 0
Labourers ..	272 0	278 0	260 0	256 0	268 2	267 0
Mainlayers ..	305 6	305 6	298 6	289 6	305 8	294 6
Metermakers ..	349 0	333 0	343 6	322/ to 337/	318/2 & 323/2	327 0
Meter Testers ..	293/ & 308/	313 0	297 6	292 0	312 8	297 0
Service Layers ..	313 0	305 6	291 0	289 6	305 8	294 6
Stokers ..	303 0	303/ & 315/6	285 0	287 0	309 8	292/ & 304/6
<i>Glassfounding—</i>						
Furnacemen ..	315 6	293/ & 298/	276/ & 281/	289/ & 294/	294/ & 299/	300/ & 305/
Labourers ..	287 0	270 0	253 0	266 0	271 0	277 0
Lehr Attendants ..	297 0	283 0	266 0	279 0	284 0	290 0
Sorters ..	298 0	278/ & 285/	261/ & 268/	274/ & 281/	279/ & 286/	285/ & 292/
<i>Glass Working and Glazing</i>						
Bevellers ..	374 0	320 0	326 9	316 0	332 8	327 0
Cutters and Glaziers ..	360 4	312 6	326 9	308 6	..	319 6
Lead Light Glaziers ..	360 4	320 0	..	316 0	332 8	327 0
Silverers ..	374 0	320 0	326 9	316 0	332 8	327 0
<i>Jewellery, Clock and Watch Making—</i>						
Chainmakers ..	344 0	325 6	283 6	301 0	340 2	..
Engravers ..	359 0	331 0	283/6 & 289/	304 0	340 2	..
Mounters ..	319/ to 359/	313/ to 353/	283/6 & 289/	311 0	340 2	..
Setters ..	344/ to 359/	325/6 to 353/	..	311 0	340 2	..
Watch and Clock Makers and Repairers	364 0	341 0	331 0	309 6	346 2	319/ & 362/
<i>Masonry—Marble and Stone—</i>						
Carvers ..	389 4	350 6	333 8	375 0	336 2	..
Machinists—						
Carborundum ..	376 0	287/3 & 306/	327 0	278/ & 296/6	290 2	..
Other ..	376 0	287/3 & 306/	327 0	278/ & 296/6	290 2	..
Masons ..	376 0	327 0	327 0	317 0	336 2	349 0
<i>Paper Bag Making—</i>						
Guillotine Cutters ..	296 9	288 9	271 9	284 9	289 9	295 9
Machinists ..	296/9 & 311/9	288/9 & 303/9	271/9 & 286/9	284/9 & 299/9	289/9 & 304/9	295/9 & 310/9
<i>Paper Making—</i>						
Beatermen ..	347 0	354 0	..	..	..	374 6
Breakermen ..	307 6	299 6	..	..	..	..
Guillotine Men ..	312 0	304 0	..	..	..	319 0
Machinememen ..	360 0	385 6	(a)262 6	..	..	392 6
Ragbreakermen ..	305 0	297 0	..	..	..	..
Other Adults ..	291 6	283 6	(a)259 6	..	..	290 6
<i>Potteries—General—</i>						
Burners—Head ..	316 0	304 6	275 6	278/ & 281/6	285 8	319 0
Hollow-ware Pressers ..	331 9	295 0	268 0	268 6	..	332 0
Sanitary Pressers ..	331 9	296 6	268 0	268 6	278/8 & 291/8	332 0
Throwers—1st Class ..	334/9 & 338/	288/6 to 307/	279 0	292/ & 311/	..	335 0

(a) Paper board.

SECTION III.—*continued.*GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Potteries—Pipemaking—</i>						
Burners—Head ..	311 6	304 6	275 6	296 6	300 2	319 0
Drawers ..	324 6	292 6	..	281 6	292 2	..
Moulders ..	328 0	..	..	296 6	295 2	315 6
Mould Makers ..	..	307 0	268 0	..	292 2	..
Setters ..	324 6	300 6	264 0	290/ & 296/6	292 2	319 0
<i>Quarrying—</i>						
Borers—Hand or Machine ..	335/10 & 342/4	318 0	256 2	..	293 8	312 0
Dressers ..	358 2	328 6	259 10	..	293 8	..
Facemen ..	341 5	333 0	256 2	..	293 8	312 0
Hammermen ..	335 10	333 0	256 2	284 0	293 8	312 0
Crusher Feeders ..	343 3	325 0	255 8	277 6	300 2	321 0
Quarrymen ..	358 2	..	259 10	..	..	321 0
<i>Rubber Working—</i>						
Calendar Hands ..	308/ & 320/6	300/ & 312/6	296 0	296 0	..	..
Cycle Tyre Makers ..	270 0	262 0	267 0	..	281 8	300 6
Dough Mixers ..	270 0	262 0	258 6	252 6	..	..
Hosemakers ..	272/ to 285/6	264/ to 277/6	260 0	..	..	..
Mechanical Lathe Hands ..	272/ & 279/	264/ & 271/	260 0	264 6	..	..
Mill Hands ..	270/ to 285/6	262/ to 277/6	260 0	274 0	..	..
Spreaders ..	273/ & 285/6	265/ & 277/6	260 0	..	..	..
Surgical, Packing, and other Makers ..	272/ & 290/6	264/ & 282/6	260 0	..	..	..
Tyre Moulders ..	270/ & 279/	262/ & 271/	267 0	..	281 8	300 6
<i>Leather and Canvas Work—</i>						
Canvas Workers ..	293 0	285 0	268 0	281 0	279 2	292 0
Leather Workers ..	308 0	300 0	283 0	296 0	305/2 to 320/2	307 0
<i>Sailmaking—</i>						
Sailmakers ..	305 0	297 0	280 0	293 0	..	304 0
<i>Shipbuilding(a)—</i>						
Carpenters and Joiners ..	341 6	341 6	341 6	341 6	341 6	341 6
Dockers ..	269/ to 293/6	269/ to 293/6	269/ to 293/6	269/ to 293/6	269/ to 293/6	269/ to 293/6
Painters ..	269/ to 293/6	269/ to 293/6	269/ to 293/6	269/ to 293/6	269/ to 293/6	269/ to 293/6
Shipwrights ..	325 0	325 0	325 0	325 0	325 0	325 0
<i>Soap Making—</i>						
General Hands ..	298 0	267 0	261 0	263 0	286 2	283 0
Mixers ..	305/ to 310/3	272/ to 292/6	277 3	268/ & 276/	295 2	283 0
Soap Makers ..	336 6	311 6	303 6	295 0	289 2	303 0
<i>Tanning and Currying—</i>						
Beamsmen ..	306 6	298 6	281 6	294 6	299 6	305 6
Curriers ..	331 6	323 6	306 6	319 6	324 6	330 6
Japanners or Enamellers ..	306 0	298 0	281 0	294 0	299 0	305 0
Limejobbers ..	304 6	296 6	279 6	292 6	297 6	303 6
Machinists—						
Fleshing ..	313 0	305 0	288 0	301 0	306 0	312 0
Scouring ..	295 6	287 6	270 6	283 6	288 6	294 6
Splitting ..	321/6 to 331/6	313/6 to 323/6	296/6 to 306/6	309/6 to 319/6	314/6 to 324/6	320/6 to 330/6
Unhairing ..	306 6	298 6	281 6	294 6	299 6	305 6
Rollers and Strikers ..	305/ & 307/6	297/ & 299/6	280/ & 282/6	293/ & 295/6	298/ & 300/6	304/ & 306/6
Tablemen ..	300/6 to 307/6	292/6 to 299/6	275/6 to 282/6	288/6 to 295/6	293/6 to 300/6	299/6 to 306/6
<i>Tent and Tarapulin Making—</i>						
Cutters ..	293 0	285 0	268 0	281 0	..	292 0
Machinists ..	293 0	285 0	268 0	281 0	279 2	292 0
Sewers—Hand ..	293 0	285 0	268 0	281 0	279 2	292 0
Tent Makers ..	293 0	285 0	268 0	281 0	279 2	292 0

(a) Permanent rates.

SECTION III.—*continued.*

GROUP VII.—BUILDING.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney. (a)	Melbourne. (a)	Brisbane.	Adelaide. (a)	Perth.	Hobart. (a)
<i>Building—</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Bricklayers—						
Sewer and Tunnel ..	398 4	392 3	343 0	362 6	380 9	384 2
Surface ..	378 4	376 8	335 6	352 6	367 5	384 2
Builders' Labourers ..	306 8	293 4	293 6	288 4	300 6	322 6
Carpenters ..	385 0	377 0	339 6	353 4	370 5	387 6
Lathers ..	385 0	377 0	339 6	353 4	368 11	384 2
Metal Ceilers ..	385 0	377 0	339 6	353 4	370 5	387 6
Masons ..	376 0	386 0	327 0	352 6	365 5	384 2
Painters, Paperhangers	381 8	374 2	335 6	340 5	366 8	384 2
Signwriters ..	394 2	374 2	337 0	340 5	366 8	384 2
Plasterers—						
Sewer or Tunnel ..	399 7	376 8	344 0	363 4	382 3	384 2
Surface ..	386 3	376 8	336 6	353 4	368 11	384 2
Plumbers, Gasfitters ..	390 4	388 3	336 6	324 0	369 11	365 0
Slaters ..	386 5	376 8	335 6	..	328 8	..
Tilers (Roof) ..	386 5	376 8	335 6	317 6	328 8	..
Tuckpointers ..	378 4	376 8	335 6	352 6	367 5	384 2
<i>Water Supply and Sewerage—</i>						
Concrete Workers ..	325/1 to 336/9	299/ & 308/	267/ to 286/6	259/ & 264/	280/2 to 295/2	282/ & 289/
Labourers ..	318/11 to 332/2	293 0	258/ to 273/11	241 0	272 8	276 0
Miners—Sewer ..	349/10 to 368/9	305/ & 311/	286/6 & 291/6	269 0	285/8 to 313/11	282/ & 296/
Pipe-jointers and Setters ..	332/2 to 337/5	311 0	263 6	264/ to 274/	295/2 to 310/2	293 0

(a) Rates are weekly equivalents of hourly rates. They include allowances for leave, holidays, following the job, etc.

GROUP VIII.—MINING.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Coal-mining—</i>						
Blacksmiths ..	334 0	344 0	309/ & 325/	..	359 9	333 0
Bracemen ..	319 0	313 6	294/ & 310/	..	..	298 6
Carpenters ..	338 0	348 0	313/ & 329/	..	..	337 0
Deputies ..	381 6	386 0	356/6 & 372/6	..	385 9	..
Engine Drivers—						
Locomotive ..	315/ & 388/	..	312/6 & 328/6	..	..	302/4 & 336/
Stationary ..	302/6 to 332/6	317/ & 328/	289/6 to 323/6	..	317/ & 322/6	294/5 to 309/
Winding ..	367 0	370 0	337/ to 358/	..	364 10	341 0
Labourers—						
Surface ..	299 6	310 6	274/6 & 290/6	..	295 2	298 6
Underground ..	302 6	310 6	274/6 & 290/6	..	311 0	298 6
Miners—						
Machine ..	(a)337/6 & 360/6	(b)	335/6 & 351/6	..	330/1 to 371/9	359 6
Manual—Dry Work	(a) 337 6	(a) 342 0	(a)312/6 & 328/6	..	330 1	..
Platmen or Banksmen	299/6 & 334/6	342 0	..	..	..	..
Shiftmen—						
Dry Work ..	337 6	342 0	312/6 & 328/6	..	330 1	336 6
Wet Work ..	350 0	354 6	325/ & 341/	..	..	349 0
Shotfirers ..	370/ & 376/	380 0	345/ & 361/	..	370 1	369 0
Timbermen ..	337 6	354 6	312/6 & 328/6	..	330 1	336 6
Weighmen ..	304 0	..	338 6	..	372 1	..
Whealers ..	303/6 & 306/	323 6	278/6 & 294/6	..	313 10	302 6

(a) Piece-work rates normally operate for these occupations but minimum weekly wage rates are as shown.

(b) Piece-work rates.

(c) Excludes district allowances.

SECTION III.—*continued.*GROUP VIII.—MINING—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Gold and Other Mining</i> (except Coal)—					(c)	
Battery Feeders ..	306/ to 316/	258/ & 271/	269 0	274 0	310 2	269/ to 280/
Bracemen ..	309/ to 319/	268/ & 281/	274/6 & 280/	269 0	*318 1	279/ to 290/
Engine Drivers—					(a)	
Stationary ..	286/ to 322/	305/ to 326/	250/ to 314/	..	328/1 to 343/1	..
Winding and Loco.	292/ to 331/	306/ to 346/	312/6 to 314/	270 0	348/1 to 406/5	281/ to 292/
Firemen ..	281/6 to 298/	295/6 & 308/	283 6	..	312 8	..
Labourers, Under-ground ..	301/ to 311/	263/ to 276/	269 0	264 0	*306 5	274/ to 285/
Miners—						
Machine ..	320/ to 345/6	274/ to 307/	274/6 & 282/8	..	*328/1 to 346/5	285/ to 296/
Manual—						
Dry Work ..	320/ to 333/	282/ to 301/	274 6	276/ & 281/	*318/1 to 334/4	293/ to 310/
Wet Work ..	332/6 to 345/6	294/6 to 313/6	286 2	283/6 & 288/6	*325/7 to 341/10	305/6 to 322/6
Platmen ..	309/ to 319/	268/ to 281/	274 6	271 0	*318 1	279/ to 290/
Shaft Sinkers—						
Dry Work ..	323/ to 333/	288/ to 307/	274 6	281 0	*334/4 to 346/5	299/ to 316/
Wet Work ..	335/6 to 345/6	300/6 to 319/6	286 2	288 6	*341/10 to 353/11	311/6 to 328/6
Timbermen ..	321/ to 338/	285/ to 303/	282 8	277/ & 282/	*334 4	296/ to 312/

(a) Excludes district allowances.

GROUP IX.—RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRANSPORT.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Railways—</i>						
Engine Drivers (Loco.)—						
Railmotor ..	349/ to 386/6	338/ to 375/6	376 0	315/ to 352/6	340/2 to 409/2	347/ to 384/6
Steam, Diesel Electric or Electric ..	394/ & 409/	383/ & 398/	376 0	360/ & 375/	340/2 to 400/2	392/ & 407/
Express, Mail or Passenger ..	424 0	413 0	376 0	390 0	415 2	422 0
Shunting Engine ..	349/ & 364/	330/6 & 339/6	325/11 & 333/7	307/6 & 316/6	332/8 & 341/8	339/6 & 348/6
Firemen—						
Ordinary ..	311/6 & 326/6	300/6 & 315/6	302 0	277/6 & 292/6	289/2 to 325/2	309/6 & 324/6
Express, Mail or Passenger ..	334 0	323 0	302 6	300 0	325 2	332 0
Shunting Engine ..	298/ to 307/6	281/6 to 296/6	283 10	258/6 to 273/6	283/8 to 298/8	290/6 to 305/6
Guards—						
1st Class ..	334/ to 352/	356 0	336 3	333 0	342 2	} 328/ to 350/
2nd Class ..	328 0	319/ to 341/	329 4	307/6 & 318/6	332 8	
3rd Class, etc. ..	..	..	317 6	291/ & 300/	317 8	
Porters ..	291/ to 297/	280/6 to 296/	280/4 & 284/3	257/ to 281/	265/2 to 286/8	293/6 to 332/
Shunters—						
Head ..	386/6 to 412/	..	328/3 to 344/1	..	317/8 to 332/8	..
Leading ..	*344/6 to 370/6	*333/6 to 371/6	299 1	310/6 & 317/6	..	341/ & 347/
Ordinary ..	*307/ to 328/	*296/ to 317/	296 1	300 0	298/8 & 302/8	305/ to 326/

SECTION III.—*continued.*GROUP IX.—RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRANSPORT—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Railways—continued.</i>						
Signalmen—						
Special	£401 6	£379 6	326/10 & 339/8	333/ & 348/	353 2	..
1st Class	£390 6	£353 0	321 10	318 0	325 2	} 314/ to 335/
2nd Class	375 6	336 0	313 0	303 0	313 2	
3rd Class	364 0	323 0	306 0	288 0	298 8	
4th Class	347 0	311 0	300 3	281 0	282 2	
<i>Tramways (Electric)—</i>						
Car Washers or Cleaners	295 0	286 0	261 7	261/ & 264/	273 2	291 0
Conductors—						
1st Year	299 0	286 0	271/ & 275/6	263 6	287/8 & 302/8	293 0
2nd Year	314 0	300 6	275/6 & 280/	278 6	302 8	304 6
3rd Year, etc. ..	314 0	300 6	280 0	278 6	302 8	304 6
Labourers	289 6	281 0	258 0	261/ & 264/	265 2	287 0
Track Repairers ..	297/ & 310/	289 0	258/ to 273/8	264/ & 267/	287 8	295 0
Tram Drivers	326 6	308 0	271/ to 280/	286 0	310 2	312 0
Overhead Linesmen—						
Leading	374 0	335/6 to 365/6	363 6	313 6	337/8 to 367/8	342 0
Other	351 6	320 6	343 6	298 6	322 8	327 0
Pitmen	326 6	312 0	282/ & 301/6	281/ to 289/	302 8	307 0
Signalmen	334/ & 341/6	308/ & 318/	275/6 & 280/	288 6	..	..
Track Cleaners	289 6	286 0	257 0	261/ & 264/	265 2	291 0

GROUP X.—OTHER TRANSPORT.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Carrying—Merchandise—</i>						
Drivers of Motor Ve- hicles—						
25 cwt. or less ..	(a) 314 0	281 0	277 0	277 0	301 2	288 0
Over 25 cwt. to 3 tons	(b) 321/ & 328/	290 6	286 6	286 6	311 2	297 6
Over 3 tons but under 6 tons ..	332/ to 340/	300 0	296 0	296 0	321 2	307 0
Motor Driver's Assis- tants	314 0	259 0	259 0	255 0	279 2	266 0
Loaders	331 0	272 0	268 0	268 0	279 2	279 0
Sanitary Carters (3 tons)	437 0	310 6	306 6	306 6	351 2	317 6
<i>Lift Attendants—</i>						
Passenger	298 0	303 0	262/ & 264/	272 0	281 2	..

(a) 20 cwt. or less.

(b) Over 20 cwt. to 3 tons.

SECTION III.—continued.

GROUP XI.—SHIPPING, WHARF LABOUR, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Waterside Working—</i>						
Wharf Labourers per hour (a)	9 10	9 10	9/10 to 10/3	9 10	9 10	9 10
<i>Passenger Vessels—Interstate (b)—</i>				£ s. d.		
Bakers per month				53/18/6 to 60/11/0(c)		
Barmen				53/18/6(d)		
Butchers				57/3/6 to 59/6/0(c)		
Cooks—						
Chief				64/11/0 & 68/6/0(c)		
Second				58/6/0 to 62/3/6(c)		
Third				53/18/6(c)		
Ships				57/3/6(c)		
Pantrymen				53/6/0 to 55/11/0(c)		
Scullerymen				52/11/0(b)		
Stewards—						
Chief Saloon ..				66/16/0 to 74/16/0(d)		
Second				57/16/0(d)		
Second Saloon,,				56/3/6(d)		
Fore Cabin ..				55/11/0(d)		
Bedroom and ..						
Other				52/11/0 to 53/6/0(d)		
<i>All Vessels—Interstate c—</i>						
A.B. Seamen per month				56/13/6		
Boatswains				57/13/6		
Donkeymen				58/13/6		
Firemen				58/3/6		
Greasers				58/3/6		
Lamp Trimmers ..				57/13/6		
Fuel Trimmers ..				55/13/6		
		<i>Vessels (Steam)</i>		<i>Vessels (Steam)</i>		
<i>Marine Engineers b e f—</i>		100 N.H.P. and under		Over 100 N.H.P.		
Chief per month		91/7/0 to 98/4/6		101/19/6 to 149/9/6		
Second		78/4/6		78/4/6 to 101/19/6		
Third		71/7/0		71/7/0 to 86/19/6		
Fourth .. ..		..		63/18/6 to 79/9/6		
Fifth and under ..		..		62/13/6		
		<i>Seagoing Passenger Vessels.</i>		<i>Seagoing Cargo Vessels.</i>		
<i>Merchant Service b f g—</i>		Under 125 tons. Over 10,000 tons.		Under 60 tons. Over 10,000 tons.		
Masters per month		92/13/6	231/19/6	81/13/6	176/19/6	
Officers—						
Chief		75/3/6	101/19/6	67/13/6	91/19/6	
Second		67/13/6	91/19/6	62/13/6	84/9/6	
Third .. ..		..	80/14/6	..	75/14/6	
4th, 5th and ..		..	62/13/6	..	62/13/6	
6th .. ..		..	..	..	..

(a) Rates of wage quoted are for casuals on other than special cargo. (b) Rates of wage quoted are in addition to victualling and accommodation, valued at £8 11s. per month. (c) Not more than 8 hours per day. (d) Not more than 8 hours per day within a spread of 15 consecutive hours when at sea, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. in terminal ports and between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. in intermediate ports. (e) Minimum rates under the Commonwealth Award are classified according to nominal horsepower of vessels. (f) Ordinary lengths of duty in a day at sea or in port or partly at sea and partly in port shall be 8 hours. (g) Minimum rates under the Commonwealth Award are classified for interstate vessels and for vessels within a State according to tonnage; the lowest and highest classes for interstate passenger and cargo vessels are given here.

SECTION III.—continued.

GROUP XII.—PASTORAL, AGRICULTURAL, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Farming—</i>						
Harvesters	404 0	302 0	..	..	268 11	289 0
Milkers	299 0	302 0	..	..	268 11	289 0
<i>Chaffcutting—</i>						
Feeders (Travelling plant)	314 0	308 9	..	274 9	308 2	365 0
Feeders (Stationary mill)	314 0	296 9	..	274 9	308 2	365 0
<i>Gardening—</i>						
Gardeners	319 0	291 0	260 0	263 0	286 8	282 0
Gardeners' Labourers	309 0	281 0	251 0	258 0	276 8	276 0
Nurserymen	324 0	288/6 & 299/	260 0	289 6	293 8	312 0
Nurserymen's Labourers	309 0	272 0	251 0	258 0	276 8	284 0
<i>Pastoral Workers (a)—</i>						
Cooks	629 9	629 9	629/7 & 650/2	629 9	629 9	629 9
Shearers—						
Hand .. per 100	160 9	160 9	152 0	160 9	160 9	160 9
Machine	149 6	149 6	152 0	149 6	149 6	149 6
Shed Hands	462 8	462 8	453 11	462 8	462 8	462 8
Wool Pressers	517 1	517 1	512 7	517 1	517 1	517 1
<i>Rural Workers—</i>						
Fruit Harvesters	255/ to 264/	253/ to 256/	..	251/ to 256/	..	260/ & 261/

(a) Shearers' and woolpressers' hours are 40 per week; shed hands' hours are the same as shearers', with such additional time as may be necessary to finish picking up fleeces, etc. Should the time engaged picking up, etc., exceed 30 minutes per day, all time thereafter must be paid as overtime. The hours of cooks are not regulated. Rates shown are "not found" rates. "Found" rates are £5 a week less except in Queensland, where they are £4 14s. 5d. a week less.

GROUP XIII.—DOMESTIC, HOTELS, ETC.

NOTE.—The rates of wage specified for employees in Hotels and Restaurants represent the weekly cash payment where board and lodging are *not* provided.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Hairdressing—</i>						
Hairdressers (Men's) ..	329/ to 339/	328 0	288/ & 296/	318 6	315 2	319 0
<i>Hotels—</i>						
Barmen	293 0	285 0	247 0	283 6	315 2	290 0
Billiard Markers	273 0	265 0	255 0	246 0	270 2	270 0
Chefs	294/ to 368/	286/ to 360/	279/ & 285/	303/6 to 366/	300/2 to 310/2	291/ to 365/
Cooks—Second	295/6 to 324/	287/6 to 316/	270 0	275/ to 291/	284/8 to 290/2	292/6 to 321/
Cooks—Third	283 0	275 0	270 0	271 0	280 2	280 0
Handymen	273 0	265 0	255 0	244 6	270 2	270 0
Kitchenmen	273 0	265 0	257 6	246 0	270 2	270 0
Lift Attendants	273 0	265 0	262 0	272 0	270 2	270 0
Porters—Day Work	273 0	265 0	255 0	248 0	275 2	270 0
Porters—Night Work	273 0	265 0	262 0	248 0	280 2	270 0
Waiters—Head	293 0	285 0	260 0	266/ & 273/6	..	290 0
Waiters—Other	273 0	265 0	255 0	255 0	275 2	270 0
<i>Restaurants—</i>						
Cooks (Single)	333 0	301 0	284 6	268 6	290 2	302 0
Pantrymen	299 6	283 0	260 6	244 6	270 2	285 6
Waiters	299/6 & 302/	283 0	260 6	254 9	275 2	282 0

SECTION III.—*continued.*

GROUP XIV.—MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL LABOUR.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Factory Engine Driving—</i>						
Engine Drivers (Stationary)—						
1st Class ..	305/6 & 316/	297/6 & 308/	304 0	293/6 & 304/	(a) 310 2	304/6 & 315/
2nd Class ..	295/ & 305/6	287/ & 297/6	293 6	283/ & 293/6	(a) 310 2	294/ & 304/6
3rd Class ..	..	..	281 0	..	(a) 300 2	..
Firemen—						
1st Class ..	298 0	290 0	273 6	273 6	(a) 300 2	297 0
2nd Class ..	285 6	277 6	273 6	286 0	(a) 288 2	284 6
Greasers ..	276/ & 294/	268/ & 286/	264 0	264/ & 282/	(a) 284 8	275/ & 293/
Trimmers ..	272 0	264 0	260 0	260 0	(a) 281 8	271 0
<i>Municipal—</i>						
Labourers ..	337 0	296 6	258 0	249 0	267 8	276 0
Street Sweepers ..	343 0	302 0	258 0	256/ & 261/	267/8 to 278/8	276 0
<i>Shon and other Assistants—</i>						
Boot Salesmen ..	326 0	313 0	291 0	279 6	306 8	322 0
Chemists' Assistants ..	404 0	383 0	328 6	326 6	289/6 & 300/5	357 6
Clerks ..	321 0	327 0	291 0	279 6	325 2	338 0
Drapery Salesmen ..	326 0	313 0	291 0	279 6	} 306 8 {	322 0
Furniture Salesmen ..	326 0	317 0	291 0	279 6		326 0
Grocery Salesmen ..	326 0	307 6	291 0	279 6		322 0
Hardware Salesmen ..	326 0	313 0	291 0	279 6		322 0
Railway Bookstall Assistants ..	326 6	300 0	291 0	279 6		322 0
Tobacconists' Assts. ..	326 0	313 0	291 0	279 6		302 0
<i>Storemen — Packing, Cleaning, etc.—</i>						
Night Watchmen ..	309 0	283 0	266 0	253 6	309 2	
Office Cleaners (Day)	302/ & 306/	280 0	263 0	241 0	290 2	276 0
Packers—General ..	314/ & 318/	306 6	278 0	} 267 0 {		
Storemen—General ..	314/ & 318/	306 6	278 0			
<i>Wholesale Grocery—</i>						
Packers ..	314 0	306/ & 309/6	278 0	} 267 0 {	301 8	278 0
Storemen ..	310 0	306/ & 309/6	278 0			
<i>Wholesale Hardware—</i>						
Packers ..	314/ & 318/	306 6	278 0	}		
Storemen ..	310/ & 314/	306 6	278 0			

(a) Rates shown are those for the sawmilling industry.

SECTION IV.

MINIMUM RATES OF WAGE FOR ADULT FEMALE WORKERS IN THE MAIN
OCCUPATIONS IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF EACH STATE FOR A FULL
WEEK'S WORK (EXCLUDING OVERTIME) AT 31st DECEMBER, 1956.

(See Explanatory Note at top of page 177.)

NOTE.—The hours of work (constituting a full week's work) for all occupations shown hereunder are 40 per week.

GROUP III.—FOOD, DRINK, TOBACCO, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Biscuit Making—</i> Adult Females ..	207 4	217 0	191 2	207 9	180 4	204 0
<i>Confectionery—</i> Adult Females ..	219 6	198 6	186 0	207 9	179 10	204 0
<i>Jam Making and Pre-</i> <i>serving—</i> Fillers ..	210 3	210 3	198 5	210 3	} 183 11 {	210 3
Other Adults ..	204 0	204 6	198 5	204 0		204 0
<i>Tea Packing—</i> Head Women ..	..	234 9	205/8 to 221/8	..	..	..
Other Adults ..	205 6	215 0	200 8	196 6	179 10	..
<i>Tobacco Working</i> <i>(Cigars)—</i> Ringers ..	216 6	197 0	170/6 to 186/	..	} 179 10 {	..
Wrapper Leaf Strippers	210/3 & 220/4	204 6	170/6 to 186/	..		..

GROUP IV.—CLOTHING, TEXTILES, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Bootmaking—</i> Machinists — Wax Thread ..	211/6 & 214/	211/6 & 214/	211/6 & 214/	211/6 & 214/	211/6 & 214/	211/6 & 214/
Other Adults ..	206 6	206 6	206 6	206 6	206 6	206 6
<i>Dressmaking—</i> Adult Females ..	190/6 to 220/6	190/6 to 220/6	190/6 to 220/6	190/6 to 220/6	190/6 to 220/6	190/6 to 220/6
<i>Dyeing and Cleaning—</i> Adult Females ..	190 6	190 6	190 6	190 6	190 6	190 6
<i>Hat Making (Straw)—</i> Finishers & Machinists	205 6	205 6	205 6	205 6	205 6	205 6
<i>Milinery—</i> Adult Females ..	190 6	190 6	190 6	190 6	190 6	190 6
<i>Shirt Making—</i> Adult Females ..	190 6	190 6	190 6	190 6	190 6	190 6
<i>Men's Tailoring (Order)—</i> Coat Hands (Machi- nists) ..	220 6	220 6	220 6	220 6	220 6	220 6
Trousers, Vest Hands	208 0	208 0	208 0	208 0	208 0	208 0
Tailoresses ..	236 6	236 6	236 6	236 6	236 6	236 6
Adult Females ..	190 6	190 6	190 6	190 6	190 6	190 6

SECTION IV.—*continued.*GROUP IV.—CLOTHING, TEXTILES, ETC.—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Men's Tailoring (Ready Made)—</i>						
Coat Hands (Machinists) ..	210 6	210 6	210 6	210 6	210 6	210 6
Trousers, Vest Hands ..	205 6	205 6	205 6	205 6	205 6	205 6
Adult Females ..	190 6	190 6	190 0	190 6	190 6	190 6
<i>Textile Working (Woollen Mills)—</i>						
Comb Minders ..	204 6	204 6	191 3	199 0	204 6	204 6
Darners and Menders ..	206/6 & 209/6	206/6 & 209/6		201/ & 204/6	206/6 & 209/6	206/6 & 209/6
Warpers, Plain ..	206 6	206 6		201 0	206 6	206 6
Weavers, Loom ..	209 6	209 6		204 0	209 6	209 6
Other Adults ..	188 6	188 6		183 0	183 6	188 6
<i>Underclothing—</i>						
Adult Females ..	190/6 to 220/6	190/6 to 220/6	190/5 to 220/6	190/5 to 220/6	190/5 to 220/6	190/6 to 220/6

GROUPS I., II., V., AND VI.—PRINTING AND OTHER MANUFACTURING.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Bedding and Furniture—</i>						
Bedding Machinists ..	209 0	203 6	184 8	200 6	184 11	209 0
Picture Frame Workers ..	225/ & 328/	191 0	220/1 & 270/5	188 0	184 11	196 6
<i>Bookbinding—</i>						
Folders and Sewers ..	213 6	207 6	195 0	204 6	208 6	213 0
<i>Brushmaking—</i>						
Adult Females ..	215/6 & 225/6	203/ & 205/6	169 0	192/3 to 199/3	177 4	..
<i>Candle and Soap Making—</i>						
Adult Females ..	205 6	196 0	195 9	196 9	176 10	..
<i>Cardboard Box Making—</i>						
Box Makers ..	208/6 to 218/	202/6 to 212/	199 6	199/6 to 209/	203/6 to 213/	208/ to 217/6
Other Adults ..	202 0	196 0	191 6	193 0	197 0	201 6
<i>Jewellery—</i>						
Chainmakers ..	344 0	213 0	190 0	227 8	..	..
Gilders ..	221 6		180 0	..	..	..
Polishers ..	221 6		180 0	221 6	..	..
Scratch Brushers ..	221 6		180 0	..	..	..
<i>Leather Goods—</i>						
Adult Females ..	209 6	205 6	191 3	200 6	188 4	209 0
<i>Paper Making—</i>						
Adult Females ..	208 6	202 6	(a) 176 6	..	..	208 0
<i>Paper Bag Making—</i>						
Adult Females ..	202/ to 211/6	196/ to 205/6	183/6 to 193/	193/ to 202/6	197/ to 206/5	201/6 to 211/
<i>Potteries—</i>						
Adult Females ..	211 6	200 6	173 6	194 5	172 4	..
<i>Printing—</i>						
Jobbing Office Assistants ..	213 6	207 6	195 0	204 6	208 6	213 0
Lithographic Feeders ..	213 6	207 6	195 0	204 6	208 6	213 0
<i>Rubber Working—</i>						
Adult Females ..	197 6	191 6	184 0	202 0	..	..
<i>Tent and Tarpaulin Making—</i>						
Machinists ..	209 6	203 6	191 0	200 6	177 4	209 0

(a) Paper board making.

SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP XIII.—DOMESTIC, HOTELS, ETC.

NOTE.—The rates of wage mentioned herein for employees in Hotels and Restaurants represent the weekly cash payment where board and lodging are *not* provided.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Hotels—</i>						
Barmaids	227 0	285 0	198 6	..	315 2	226 6
Housemaids	206 6	200 6	179 0	197 0	192 5	206 0
Laundresses	207 6	201 6	185 0	203 6	192 5	207 0
Waitresses—Head ..	213 6	207 6	184 0	202 0	..	213 0
„ Other	206 6	200 6	179 0	197 0	192 5	206 0
<i>Laundries—</i>						
General Hands	205 6	198 6	} 175 0 {	204 6	} 179 10 {	204 0
Machinists—Shirt and Collar	207 0	205 6		211 6		204 0
Sorters	207 0	198 6		211 6		204 0
Starchers	205 6	205 6		207 6		204 0
Washers	205 6	205/6 & 257/6		207/6 & 242/		215/ & 225/
<i>Office Cleaning (Day)—</i>						
Adult Females	214/6 & 216/6	266 0	193 0	180 6	197 4	..
<i>Restaurants—</i>						
Pantry Maids	213 0	208 6	} 179 6 {	195 0	189 10	217 6
Waitresses	213 0	208 6		196 6	192 4	214 0

GROUP XIV.—SHOP ASSISTANTS, CLERKS, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Clerical—</i>						
Cashiers (Shops) ..	237 6	239 6	205 6	209 6	214 4	231 0
Clerks	230 6	239 6	205 6	209 6	214 4	231 0
Ledger Machinists ..	237 0	245 3	213 0	218 0	220 4	238 0
Stenographers	237 0	245 3	205 6	218 0	220 4	238 0
Typists	230 6	245 3	205 6	218 0	214 4	231 0
<i>Saleswomen—</i>						
Boots and Shoes	237/6 & 326/	222 0	200 0	209 6	} 202 4 {	219/6 & 289/10
Drapery	237/6 & 326/	226/6 & 319/	200/ & 291/	209/6 & 279/6		219/6 & 289/10
Fruit and Confectionery	237 6	218 0	200 0	205 9		214 0
Newsagent and Book-stall	237 6	204/6 & 211/	200 0	209 6		219 6
Tobacconists	237 6	224 6	200 0	205 0		214 0

SECTION V.

WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR: AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NEW ZEALAND.

(Wages are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Industry and Occupation.	AUSTRALIA (SYDNEY).				UNITED KINGDOM (LONDON).				NEW ZEALAND (AUCKLAND).			
	31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1956.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1956.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1956.	
	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>	
<i>Furniture—</i>												
Cabinet Maker	107 0	44	346 0	40	82 3	47	} 192 6	44	{ 110 0	40	245 3	40
Upholsterer	107 0	44	346 0	40	82 3	47						
French Polisher	107 0	44	346 0	40	82 3	47						
<i>Sawmilling—</i>												
Machinist, Planing	91 0	44	296 0	40	..	..	..	..	103 4	40	253 8	40
	and		323 0									
	100 0		323 0									
Machinist, Shaping	105 0	44	323 0	40	..	..	..	..	103 4	40	253 8	40
Sawyer, Band or Jig	95 0	44	295 6	40	..	..	..	..	96 8	40	238 11	40
	to		to									
	108 0		328 0									
Sawyer, Circular	95 0	44	298 0	40	..	..	..	..	112 6	40	264 1	40
	to		and									
	102 0		320 0									
<i>Engineering and Metal Working—</i>												
Fitter and Turner	108 0	44	328 0	40	70 11	47	172 11½	44	110 0	40	254 1	40
	and											
	112 0											
Patternmaker	120 0	44	350 6	40	71 3	47	..	..	110 0	40	254 1	40
Moulder (Iron)	90 0	44	281 0	40	70 11	44	177 7½	44	110 0	40	250 9	40
	to		to									
	111 0		328 0									
Tinsmith	101 6	44	303 0	40	..	..	..	..	110 0	40	253 3	40
			and									
			328 0									
<i>Milling (Flour)—</i>												
Miller (shift)	97 0	44	322 6	40	71 0	42	213 6	42	(a) 99 4	40	(b) 258 0	40
	to		to		and							
	107 6		360 0		73 0							
Packerman	85 0	44	298 0	40	..	..	..	..	95 4	40	234 5	40

(a) Kilnman. (b) Rollerman. Not comparable with previous years.

SECTION V.—*continued.*

WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR: AUSTRALIA THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NEW ZEALAND—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	AUSTRALIA (SYDNEY).				UNITED KINGDOM (LONDON).				NEW ZEALAND (AUCKLAND).			
	31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1956.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1956.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1956.	
	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>	
<i>Bootmaker (Manufacturing)—</i> Bootmaker	104 0	44	302 0	40	51 6 to 58 0	45	160 0	45	91 8	40	244 10	40
<i>Tailoring (Ready-made)—</i> Cutter	101 0	44	310 0	40	..	..	..	..	102 6	40	239 11	40
Presser (Coat)	98 0	44	297 0	40	..	..	..	..	92 6	40	223 2	40
Trimmer	98 0	44	297 0	40	..	..	..	..	92 6	40	239 11	40
<i>Bookbinding—</i> Bookbinder	108 0	44	328 0	40	80 0	45	222 0	43½	107 6	40	253 8	40
Paper Ruler	108 0	44	328 0	40	80 0	45	222 0	43½	107 6	40	..	..
<i>Printing (Daily Newspaper)—</i> Compositor (Day Work)	131 0	44	434 0	40	89 0	45	..	..	107 6	40	253 8	40
Reader (Day Work)	139 6	44	399 0	40	..	..	..	..	112 6	40	268 5	40
<i>Printing (Jobbing Offices)—</i> Compositor	108 0 and 117 0	44	328 0 to 350 6	40	89 0	45	222 0	43½	107 6	40	253 8	40
Linotype Operator (Day Work) ..	117 0	44	350 6	40	..	..	..	..	115 0	40	263 6	40
<i>Building—</i> Bricklayer	121 0	44	378 4	40	77 0	44	192 6 and 194 4	44	115 0	40	256 2	40
Carpenter	121 0	44	385 0	40	77 0	44	192 6 and 194 4		112 6	40	246 7	40

SECTION V.—*continued.*

WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR: AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NEW ZEALAND

Industry and Occupation.	AUSTRALIA (SYDNEY).				UNITED KINGDOM (LONDON).				NEW ZEALAND (AUCKLAND).			
	31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1956.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1956.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1956.	
	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
<i>Building—continued.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>	
Labourer—Carpenter's ..	87 0	44	} 306 8	40	57 9	44	168 8	44	93 4	40	} 225 2	40
Concrete Worker ..	87 0	44			(a)	(a)	and		93 4	40		
Earth Excavator ..	87 0	44			(a)	(a)	170 6		93 4	40		
Painter ..	114 4	44	381 8	40	73 4	44	192 6	44	110 0	40	245 3	40
Paperhanger ..	114 4	44	381 8	40	77 0	44	and		110 0	40	245 3	40
Plasterer ..	121 0	44	386 3	40	77 0	44	194 4		115 0	40	255 9	40
Plumber ..	125 0	44	390 4	40	77 0	44			110 0	40	259 5	40
<i>Tramways—</i>												
Conductor—												
1st year ..	87 0	44	299 0	40	} 73 0	48	179 6	44	} 95 10	40	222 3	40
							to				and	
2nd year ..	90 0	44	314 0	40	82 0		179 6		100 0		227 2	40
3rd year, etc. ..	93 0	44	314 0	40			189 6				227 2	
Motorman—												
1st year ..	99 0	44	} 326 6	40	73 0	48	181 6	44	100 0	40	} 236 0	40
2nd year ..	99 0	44			to		181 6		and			
3rd year, etc. ..	99 0	44			82 0		193 6		103 4			
<i>Carrying (Merchandise)—</i>												
Motor Waggon Driver (2-4 tons)	92 0	44	321 0	40	60 0	48	155 0	44	93 0	40	226 3	40
			and		and		and					
			328 0		61 0		156 0					
<i>Municipal—Labourer ..</i>	94 6	44	337 0	40	58 8	47	167 8	44	90 0	40	236 0	40
					to							
					64 6							

(a) Not available.

SECTION VI.

BASIC WAGE RATES—1923 TO 1957.

(Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission(a).)

The following table shows the basic weekly wage rates prescribed for adult males under periodical decisions of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, including automatic variations made prior to 12th September, 1953 in accordance with quarterly changes in the retail price index for the city or combination of cities shown at the head of the table. On that date the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced its decision to discontinue the system of automatic adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index numbers. The amount *legally* payable in any specific instance must be determined by reference to the appropriate award.

- (1) The rates of wage shown include "Powers 3s." (or the equivalent thereof) and "Prosperity" loadings, where applicable.
- (2) The 10 per cent. reduction operative from February, 1931, to May, 1934, has been applied.
- (3) Generally the rates operated from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in the month indicated.

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
1923—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
February ..	82 6	82 0	73 0	78 0	73 6	81 6	80 6
May ..	"	81 6	73 6	79 6	74 0	83 0	"
August ..	86 6	87 6	75 0	84 0	79 6	87 6	85 0
November ..	89 0	91 6	76 0	85 6	78 0	89 0	87 6
1924—							
February ..	87 0	87 6	77 6	84 0	76 0	89 6	85 0
May ..	86 0	85 6	77 0	"	78 0	"	84 6
August ..	85 6	85 0	75 0	85 6	78 6	88 6	84 0
November ..	84 6	84 6	"	84 0	79 0	88 0	83 0
1925—							
February ..	85 0	84 0	74 0	83 6	79 6	87 0	83 6
May ..	86 0	85 6	75 0	85 0	81 0	"	84 6
August ..	87 0	87 0	76 6	87 6	82 6	"	85 6
November ..	88 0	87 6	77 0	86 0	81 0	85 6	86 0
1926—							
February ..	89 6	"	78 6	85 6	77 6	86 0	86 6
May ..	90 6	88 6	82 0	86 6	81 6	89 0	88 0
August ..	92 6	92 0	"	89 6	84 0	"	90 6
November ..	91 6	89 0	82 6	85 6	81 6	88 6	88 6
1927—							
February ..	"	88 6	83 0	84 6	80 0	87 0	88 0
May ..	90 6	87 6	80 6	86 0	"	86 6	87 6
August ..	89 6	87 0	78 6	"	80 6	85 6	86 6
November ..	90 6	90 0	79 6	88 0	79 6	85 0	88 0
1928—							
February ..	93 0	89 6	80 6	87 0	80 0	84 0	89 0
May ..	91 6	88 0	79 6	87 6	"	82 6	88 0
August ..	92 0	87 6	"	"	84 0	83 0	"
November ..	90 6	86 0	79 0	85 0	85 0	82 6	87 0
1929—							
February ..	91 0	"	80 0	84 0	"	83 0	"
May ..	95 0	89 6	81 6	88 0	86 0	86 0	90 6
August ..	94 6	90 0	80 6	88 6	86 6	85 6	"
November ..	95 0	"	"	"	85 6	86 0	"

(a) Prior to 30th June, 1956, Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

SECTION VI.—*continued.*

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1930—							
February ..	95 6	„	81 0	87 0	83 6	86 6	„
May ..	92 0	86 0	77 6	84 0	82 6	84 0	87 0
August ..	91 0	85 6	73 0	82 6	82 0	„	86 0
November ..	88 0	83 0	70 6	78 0	79 0	82 0	83 0
1931—							
*February ..	76 6	70 2	60 9	66 2	66 2	70 2	71 1
May ..	74 3	68 5	„	64 4	66 7	68 10	69 4
August ..	72 11	65 8	60 4	62 1	65 8	67 1	67 6
November ..	70 8	63 5	58 6	58 1	62 1	64 4	65 3
1932—							
February ..	68 10	„	„	„	60 9	64 10	64 4
May ..	„	63 11	„	58 11	61 8	65 3	64 10
August ..	68 5	63 0	57 7	58 6	„	65 8	63 11
November ..	67 6	61 8	56 8	57 2	59 5	64 4	63 0
1933—							
February ..	66 7	60 4	55 10	55 4	58 1	63 5	61 8
May ..	67 10	63 4	59 4	59 2	59 9	64 10	64 2
August ..	66 11	62 5	58 10	„	58 10	63 10	63 4
November ..	„	62 10	59 4	59 7	60 3	63 11	„
1934—							
February ..	„	63 4	„	60 2	59 3	64 10	63 9
*May ..	67 0	64 0	61 0	†64 0	66 0	†67 0	65 0
June ..	68 0	„	62 0	†65 0	„	† „	66 0
September ..	„	„	„	† „	68 0	†67 0	„
December ..	„	„	„	† „	„	† „	„
1935—							
March ..	„	66 0	„	† „	„	†69 0	„
June ..	„	„	„	„	„	„	„
September ..	„	„	„	„	„	„	„
December ..	70 0	„	64 0	67 0	„	„	68 0
1936—							
March ..	„	„	„	„	„	„	„
June ..	„	„	„	„	„	„	„
September ..	„	„	„	„	„	„	„
December ..	„	69 0	66 0	69 0	71 0	„	„
1937—							
March ..	„	„	„	„	„	„	70 0
June ..	72 0	„	68 0	„	„	„	„
*July ..	75 0	72 0	71 0	70 0	72 0	72 0	73 0
September ..	„	73 0	70 0	71 0	73 0	73 0	„
*October ..	78 0	76 0	73 0	73 0	75 0	75 0	75 0
December ..	„	77 0	74 0	74 0	„	„	76 0
1938—							
March ..	79 0	„	„	75 0	74 0	76 0	77 0
June ..	„	„	75 0	„	75 0	„	„
September ..	80 0	78 0	„	76 0	76 0	„	„
December ..	81 0	79 0	„	„	„	„	78 0
1939—							
March ..	„	„	„	„	„	„	„
June ..	82 0	81 0	77 0	78 0	77 0	77 0	79 0
September ..	81 0	„	76 0	„	„	„	„
December ..	82 0	80 0	„	77 0	„	„	„
1940—							
February ..	„	81 0	77 0	„	„	78 0	80 0
May ..	83 0	82 0	78 0	78 0	„	„	„
August ..	85 0	84 0	79 0	80 0	79 0	80 0	82 0
November ..	„	„	„	„	80 0	81 0	83 0

* Rates declared subsequent to an inquiry. † Except in special cases these rates were subject to graduated deductions so that the increase granted in May, 1934, was, in effect, introduced in stages over the succeeding twelve months.

SECTION VI.—*continued.*

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1941—							
February ..	88 0	86 0	82 0	82 0	81 0	83 0	85 0
May ..	..	87 0	83 0	83 0	82 0	84 0	86 0
August ..	89 0	..	..	..	84 0	85 0	..
November ..	..	88 0	84 0	84 0	85 0	..	87 0
1942—							
February ..	91 0	89 0	86 0	86 0	86 0	87 0	88 0
May ..	93 0	92 0	88 0	88 0	87 0	88 0	90 0
August ..	95 0	94 0	89 0	91 0	89 0	91 0	93 0
November ..	97 0	97 0	91 0	93 0	91 0	92 0	95 0
1943—							
February ..	98 0	98 0	..	..	92 0	94 0	96 0
May ..	..	..	92 0	..	..	..	..
August ..	100 0	99 0	94 0	94 0	94 0	95 0	98 0
November ..	99 0	98 0	93 0	..	..	..	97 0
1944—							
February ..	..	97 0	..	93 0	93 0	94 0	96 0
May ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
August ..	..	98 0	..	..	..	93 0	..
November ..	..	..	..	..	94 0	94 0	..
1945—							
February ..	..	..	..	..	93 0	..	..
May ..	98 0	..	..	..	..	93 0	..
August ..	..	..	..	..	94 0	..	..
November ..	99 0	..	..	..	..	94 0	..
1946—							
February ..	..	..	..	94 0	..	95 0	..
May ..	..	..	94 0	..	..	..	97 0
August ..	100 0	99 0	..	95 0	95 0	96 0	98 0
November ..	101 0	..	..	..	..	97 0	..
*December ..	108 0	106 0	101 0	102 0	102 0	103 0	105 0
1947—							
February ..	..	107 0	103 0	..	103 0	104 0	106 0
May ..	110 0	..	104 0	103 0	..	..	..
August ..	..	108 0	..	104 0	104 0	105 0	107 0
November ..	112 0	109 0	105 0	106 0	106 0	107 0	109 0
1948—							
February ..	114 0	113 0	107 0	108 0	107 0	110 0	111 0
May ..	116 0	115 0	110 0	111 0	110 0	112 0	114 0
August ..	120 0	117 0	113 0	114 0	112 0	115 0	116 0
November ..	122 0	120 0	115 0	116 0	116 0	118 0	119 0
1949—							
February ..	124 0	123 0	118 0	119 0	118 0	121 0	122 0
May ..	127 0	125 0	119 0	121 0	120 0	124 0	124 0
August ..	130 0	128 0	122 0	124 0	126 0	127 0	127 0
November ..	132 0	130 0	125 0	126 0	129 0	128 0	129 0
1950—							
February ..	135 0	134 0	127 0	129 0	131 0	131 0	133 0
May ..	138 0	137 0	129 0	131 0	133 0	..	135 0
August ..	142 0	140 0	132 0	134 0	136 0	135 0	138 0
November ..	146 0	143 0	135 0	137 0	139 0	139 0	142 0
*December ..	165 0	162 0	154 0	158 0	160 0	160 0	162 0
1951—							
February ..	173 0	170 0	159 0	166 0	166 0	165 0	169 0
May ..	180 0	177 0	166 0	171 0	176 0	173 0	176 0
August ..	193 0	189 0	175 0	184 0	188 0	187 0	189 0
November ..	207 0	199 0	185 0	195 0	197 0	199 0	200 0

* Rates declared subsequent to an inquiry.

SECTION VI.—*continued.*

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1952—							
February ..	216 0	209 0	199 0	205 0	205 0	208 0	210 0
May ..	223 0	212 0	207 0	211 0	214 0	214 0	216 0
August ..	235 0	224 0	213 0	224 0	222 0	222 0	227 0
November ..	237 0	228 0	216 0	229 0	228 0	230 0	231 0
1953—							
February ..	238 0	229 0	215 0	225 0	229 0	232 0	231 0
May ..	241 0	232 0	217 0	228 0	231 0	239 0	234 0
†August ..	243 0	235 0	218 0	231 0	236 0	242 0	236 0
1956—							
*‡June ..	253 0	245 0	228 0	241 0	246 0	252 0	246 0
1957—							
*§May ..	263 0	255 0	238 0	251 0	256 0	262 0	256 0

* Rates declared subsequent to an inquiry. † By the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, announced on 12th September, 1953, automatic adjustment of basic wages in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index numbers was discontinued in Commonwealth awards either then the subject of applications before the Court or subsequently reviewed by the Court in this connexion.

‡ Consequent on the 1955-56 Basic Wage Inquiry the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration granted an increase of 10s. in adult male basic wages under awards of the Court from the first pay-period in June, 1956.

§ As a result of the 1956-57 basic wage case, the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission increased all adult male basic wages payable under awards within its jurisdiction by 10s. from the first pay-period on or after 15th May, 1957.

SECTION VII.

COMPARATIVE INDEX NUMBERS FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED.

(Base of each Section: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1911 = 1,000.) (a)

Period.	Retail Price Index Numbers.					Nominal Wage Rates, Adult Males.	Real Wage Rates.(b)(d)	
	Food and Groceries.(b)	Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses). (c)	Clothing.	Miscel- laneous.	Total "C" Series Retail Price Index (b)			
Year.								
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	(e) 1,000	(e) 1,000	(e) 1,000	1,000	1,000	
1914 ..	1,144	1,082	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,081	948	
1921 ..	1,902	1,410	1,883	1,537	1,680	1,826	1,087	
1928 ..	1,761	1,743	1,507	1,537	1,675	1,963	1,172	
1932 ..	1,425	1,336	1,215	1,458	1,377	1,639	1,190	
1938 ..	1,584	1,540	1,253	1,463	1,488	1,799	1,209	
1939 ..	1,657	1,577	1,271	1,465	1,526	1,846	1,210	
1946 ..	1,852	1,596	2,276	1,776	1,900	2,400	1,263	
1947 ..	1,967	1,597	2,367	1,825	1,971	2,598	1,318	
1948 ..	2,245	1,601	2,637	1,913	2,148	2,914	1,357	
1949 ..	2,492	1,605	3,019	2,037	2,349	3,210	1,367	
1950 ..	2,800	1,613	3,455	2,184	2,589	3,596	1,389	
1951 ..	3,649	1,649	4,156	2,555	3,124	4,495	1,439	
1952 ..	4,516	1,728	4,657	2,980	3,645	5,241	1,438	
1953 ..	4,723	1,861	4,872	3,126	3,820	5,539	1,450	
1954 ..	4,776	1,949	4,865	3,139	3,860	5,632	1,459	
1955 ..	5,027	2,005	4,894	3,168	3,970	5,773	1,454	
1956 ..	A 5,227 B 5,514	2,166	4,930	3,403	A 4,130 B 4,226	6,049	A 1,465 B 1,431	
1957 ..	5,315	5,311	2,256	5,075	4,259	4,257	6,253	1,468
Quarter— 1950.								
December ..	3,020	1,618	3,643	2,271	2,726	4,009	1,471	
1951.								
March ..	3,201	1,641	3,760	2,381	2,843	4,142	1,457	
June ..	3,443	1,646	4,151	2,498	3,042	4,387	1,442	
September ..	3,819	1,651	4,283	2,611	3,224	4,601	1,427	
December ..	4,133	1,656	4,429	2,731	3,388	4,850	1,432	
1952.								
March ..	4,298	1,672	4,523	2,783	3,481	5,036	1,447	
June ..	4,589	1,702	4,685	2,967	3,661	5,156	1,408	
September ..	4,633	1,750	4,709	3,072	3,714	5,345	1,439	
December ..	4,544	1,789	4,712	3,098	3,722	5,428	1,458	
1953.								
March ..	4,599	1,835	4,838	3,118	3,763	5,443	1,446	
June ..	4,658	1,857	4,906	3,122	3,805	5,512	1,449	
September ..	4,804	1,870	4,880	3,127	3,851	5,591	1,452	
December ..	4,831	1,882	4,863	3,136	3,861	5,611	1,453	
1954.								
March ..	4,798	1,900	4,880	3,151	3,861	5,622	1,456	
June ..	4,774	1,947	4,856	3,137	3,856	5,624	1,459	
September ..	4,746	1,970	4,853	3,133	3,851	5,623	1,460	
December ..	4,787	1,977	4,870	3,136	3,871	5,658	1,462	
1955.								
March ..	4,882	1,983	4,865	3,115	3,898	5,720	1,467	
June ..	4,952	1,997	4,898	3,151	3,941	5,746	1,458	
1956.								
September ..	A 5,024 B 5,103	2,014	4,903	3,168	A 3,973 B 4,001	5,774	A 1,453 B 1,443	
December ..	5,061	5,169	2,025	4,910	4,004	4,041	5,853	1,462
1957.								
March ..	5,098	5,232	2,142	4,903	4,044	4,090	5,895	1,458
June ..	5,225	5,461	2,158	4,910	4,115	4,195	6,013	1,461
September ..	5,302	5,800	2,174	4,928	4,167	4,334	6,090	1,461
December ..	5,282	5,562	2,189	4,977	4,192	4,286	6,197	1,478
1957.								
March ..	5,315	5,331	2,218	5,024	4,226	4,231	6,187	1,464
June ..	5,322	5,359	2,245	5,070	4,256	4,268	6,264	1,472
September ..	5,340	5,319	2,271	5,087	4,278	4,271	6,273	1,466
December ..	5,284	5,234	2,288	5,119	4,275	4,256	6,286	1,470

(a) The index numbers given in the separate columns of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show, for example, the relative cost of food and groceries and rent, since the cost in 1911 in each group or combination of groups is made equal to 1,000.

(b) Indexes in Columns "A" exclude, and those in Columns "B" include, the price movement of potatoes and onions.

(c) See note (c) on page 21.

(d) Index of nominal weekly wage rates divided by "C" Series Retail Price Index Number.

(e) Taken back from true base November, 1914 = 1,000 by means of the Food and Rent (All Houses) Index.

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